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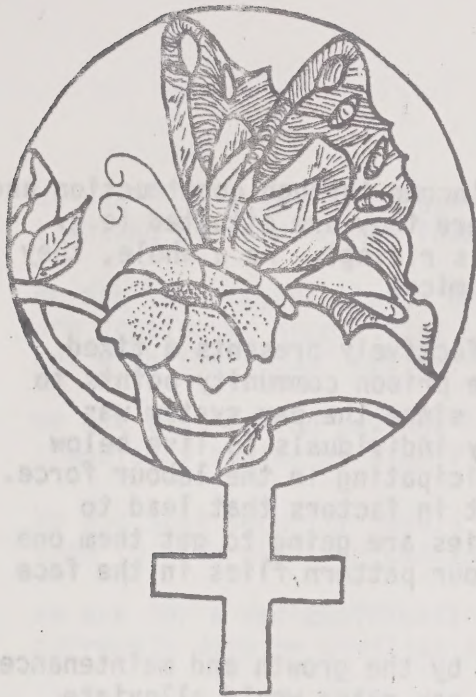


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EDITORIAL

There are a lot of major issues being dealt with lately by the Justice Dept. and the Parole Board. The most crucial of these is the Violent Offender's Act. I've included highlights of this Act in this issue along with various comments that have appeared in newspapers. A complete reading of the Parole Act and its amendments remains in the Tightwire office and is available to any who wish to read it.

This issue of Tightwire has been a 'joint' effort in more ways than one. Our thanks goes out to all those who contributed their comments, thoughts and articles. It has made our job alot easier.

THANK YOU!!!

Fran and Gail

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*Reference material for horoscopes supplied by:
International Webster New Encyclopedic Dictionary
Taberhouse New York 1971

Pay Proposal

Prisons are big business that generate income through construction and employment. They are a boon to the areas where they are situated (e.g. Brian Mulroney has offered to build one in his riding). As a whole, they cannot be justified in terms other than economics.

The pay system, with no adjustments, effectively presents a fixed wage. Recognizing tobacco as a staple in the prison community points to inflationary rates of 100% during the period since the pay system was implemented. Understandably this forces many individuals to live below subsistence levels even though they are participating in the labour force. This constitutes undue hardships which result in factors that lead to tension. People that cannot afford necessities are going to get them one way or another. This forced negative behaviour pattern flies in the face of the term "corrections".

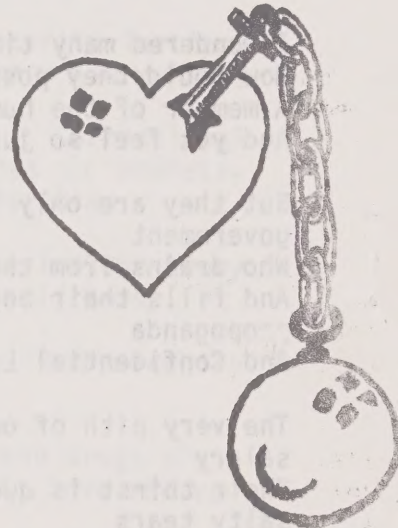
Given the economic stimulation afforded by the growth and maintenance of the prison system, a marginal increase in pay rates would alleviate hardships while allowing a few more dollars to flow through the system and stimulate the economy. It is a question of social costs and incentives.

The twenty-five percent compulsory savings regulation is not in line with the nation's average prosperity to save. The percentage is independent of the level of disposable income. People subsisting on incomes below the cost-of-living must make adjustments that are not socially acceptable. It is unrealistic to make them save. Forced saving does not "teach" responsibility in money management. The amount of money saved for release is not adequate enough to purchase the necessities that are foregone due to incarceration.

The women at P4W do not have security levels that are in line with the cascading system. This unjustly affects wages. Incentives are low when a high percentage of the population earns little more than welfare payments. Welfare and sick pay are not enough for an individual to purchase tubes and tobacco. All other necessities (e.g. stamps) are unattainable through legal means.

Presently new inmates are arriving with specialized skills and higher education. The demand for decent jobs is exceeding open positions (e.g. clerical positions). More positions should be made available so that part of the pay incentive theme can be put into practice. Some work areas allow only one inmate to reach maximum pay (e.g. A.D.P.). Without the benefit of a cascading system, the opportunity to get the top position can take many years which is not fair to women with smaller sentences.

1. We ask that wages be brought in line with the cost-of-living and that indexing be used in the future.
2. We ask that federal taxes be taken off products on the canteen that are considered necessities. Taxing the poor was a concept that went out with the feudal system.
3. We ask that forced savings be abolished or the percentage of compulsory saving be significantly reduced.
4. We ask that security levels of the women at P4W be adjusted to bring them in line with the cascading system.
5. We ask for a reclassification of jobs and pay levels. Many jobs currently done by civilian staff could be done or assisted by inmates.



JUST PUT MORE MEN ON THE JOB

A crew of male convicts working on a construction project at a women's prison made some significant additions that were not in the architect's plans - five pregnancies.

Since the 20 inmate volunteers from Flamenco Hall men's prison in Phoenix, Arizona, began work at the nearby Arizona Centre for Women, that institution has had one baby born, one abortion and three inmates still pregnant.

A fourth of the 202 women prisoners at the Centre have filed a complaint with the State Dept. of Corrections.

"This could have been any one of us," the outraged prisoners wrote. "We want protection."

After much deliberation, state officials decided that the best way to handle the problem was to put more men on the job - in order to help speed things up.

So, another 12 male convicts were sent over to help the 20 men now working on the project.

-originally published in the National Enquirer.

Sister in Cell #00

I passed by your cell today
I saw that you weren't allowed to speak
You're very dangerous they say
and must be kept locked.

Locked for two and half years!
Oh, that seems so bleak!
I wonder if what they say is really true?

I watched as they opened your door
And I heard them say;
You must conform to the Ways
We expect you too
Conform or be locked forever more.

I passed by your cell today
My heart heavy with grief
There was so much I wanted to say
To offer your friendship
And a bit of relief.

I wondered many times over as I watched
How could they possibly do this to
A member of the human Race?
And yet feel so justified for their wrong.

But they are only "puppets" to a heartless
government
Who drains from them their every compassion
And fills their boggled minds with such
propoganda
And Confidential Lies!

The very pith of our flesh and bones pay their
salary
Their thirst is quenched with our blood and
salty tears
Theirs is a conscience without morality
A loss of identity and empty shells existing
only in Human form.

I passed by your cell today
I saw you smile
And this is what you had to say . . .

"Be strong my Sister,
The struggle is hard.
Everyday of our life is a trial
To be a woman, poor and Third World.
We are prosecuted, persecuted and
Discriminated against
for our every effort.

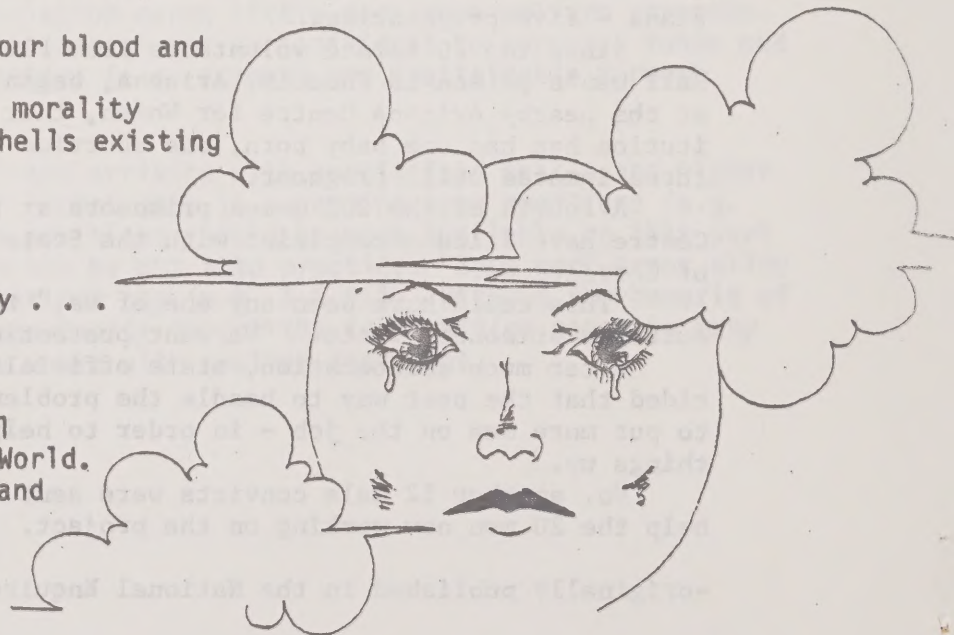
"Life is a challenge from our first
Breathe of life to our last
And it isn't easy in between.
The world over people struggle and suffer
To win their fight for Freedom.

"Many never make it to Victory
They weaken and give up the fight
To find a much easier solution
Such as dangling from the end of
A systematic string.

"They are" never happy people
We can only pity them
For they have become weak and greedy
With high hopes of being that one
In full power and control.

"I, Sister in cell #00
Have felt their hate welt across my flesh
As they speak of my violent and
Aggressive behavior as reason to keep me
Locked away.

"It is they who are afraid
Of themselves
It is they who are prisoners
To their own distrust and fears.



Joyceville prisoners will be first for Dope tests

The following is an excerpt from an article which appeared in the Kingston Whig Standard on September 12, 1985. It states the procedures to be used, the institutional right to enforce such testing and any disciplinary action which may be taken as a result of the urinalysis tests. It is interesting to note, that no outside charges can be brought against inmates who register positive on test results. Primarily because this testing can not be legally enforced in an outside court. The internal charges however, may result in their serving more time, through loss of parole, than what would feasibly be handed down through a court of law.

Joyceville prisoners will be first for dope tests

by Barb Wright

Inmates in Joyceville Institution will be the guinea pigs in a new program to test for drug consumption.

The pilot project, to start in mid-October in the medium-security institution, will test the urine of random selection of inmates every two months.

At first, only signs of cocaine and heroin will be sought. Correctional Services Canada says it will phase in tests for such drugs as amphetamines, barbiturates, tranquilizers, cannabis and alcohol over time.

"The testing program will eventually probably be expanded to include every institution across Canada," prison spokesman Dennis Curtis said today.

He said that the testing is being tried to see if drug- and alcohol-related violence can be reduced in federal institutions.

"There have been a number of studies into prison violence and drugs are a problem, there's no question of that," he said. "The reports have indicated that drugs are at the back of many serious assaults."

Initially, Curtis said, approximately 10 per cent of the total inmate population will be tested for drugs every two months.

The list of inmates will probably be chosen by a computer programmed to make a random selection.

Other inmates can be tested as well, Curtis said, including inmates convicted in outside court of possession or trafficking and those convicted in disciplinary court inside the prison of possession, trafficking or consumption of banned substances.

Inmates suspected of being under the influence can also be told to produce a urine sample for testing, Curtis said.

Inmates whose tests are positive will not be charged in the first few months of the program.

"However, they could face internal discipline, such as withdrawal of a pass (outside) and it will certainly go on their record."

Any inmate found impaired a second time will face internal charges.

Inmates identified for testing will be told in writing of the request for a urine sample, Curtis said.

"Refusal to provide a urine sample will mean failing to obey a direct order," an action illegal within the prison system. Such inmates will be charged, Curtis said.

"We're trying all the time to keep controlled substances out of the prison," Curtis said, "but you can't always do it."

"Drugs have gotten pretty sophisticated, and we can't search visitors without their permission and we can't do a body cavity search without the inmates' permission."

There is no question of violation or invasion of inmate's rights, Curtis contended.

"Obviously, our legal branch has thoroughly investigated the legal aspects of the program," Curtis said.

"And there was an Order in Council (by the federal cabinet) passed in May which makes it legal."

Further investigation and comments to the overall effect of such screening was found in October 21st edition of Time magazine.

In an article entitled "Putting them All to the Test", "Does Wider Screening mean narrower freedoms?" some of the legal and social aspects were discussed. The testing involved not only covers drug and alcohol use of prisoners but also high school students and job applicants and employees in various work fields. Calls are also being made for tests to be made on people who have direct contact with public for exposure to the virus believed to cause AIDS.

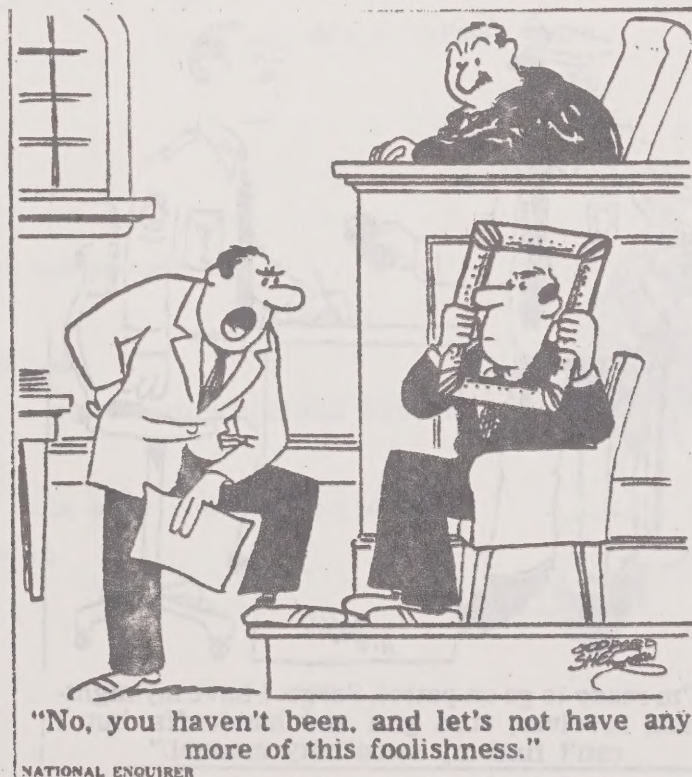
The establishment believes it is doing something in the best interests of the public, while the people being tested believe it is a basic infringement on their human rights. It would appear that not only the personal freedom rights of prisoners are being challenged but also these of the "free" majority. The courts are trying to draw a distinction of testing that is unreasonable in various groups.

Other objections to testing include the claim that it is most widely used as a method to control subordinate or, in the case of prisoners, the non conformists or troublemakers, while the executives, management and co-operative prisoners are rarely tested. A definite line of favoritism could be drawn.

Many civil libertarians believe that the general increase in testing means a slow insidious dissolution of people's freedom. The Charter of Rights stipulates that there shall be no discrimination and the limited rights of the prisoner are already being questioned in the courts. It's not unreasonable to assume that "random" selection testing will be just another means to exhort their control over prisoners who have already lost their freedom and the majority of their rights. It will be interesting to see exactly how "random" these computer selections will be and on what data they base their selection. But that is something we may never find out. CSC has included a "fail-safe" mechanism in the event the computer does not select someone they feel should be tested. They can refer to the prisoners drug record, both inside and out of prison. Now they can even have suspicions confirmed. All the bases seem to be covered. Now, anyone that the CSC knows, thinks or suspects can be subjected to testing. Not to mention anyone they just want to hassle.

One final note, we are not familiar with the testing procedures to be used, but where the tests have been enforced, there have been some complaints on faulty screening. Samples that are not properly stored or handled by lab personnel are not always accurate. There is also the possibility of mislabelling and the period of time that drugs & alcohol remain in the person's system vary so as second test may prove inaccurate.

The general public, those not directly subjected to the degradation of such testing, have provoked very little outcry because they are more concerned with protecting themselves than protecting the intangible rights of privacy and civil liberties. It won't be until their own integrity is challenged that they will be willing to stand up to a system that is preparing to relieve them of their personal freedoms.



Fran Smith

Forever Convinced:

Cement battleground, grilled structures cutting off retreat or advance. Steel doors used as shields, glass that reflects your own image back at you. Iron bars restricting view and movement. A jungle of tangled corridors and passage-ways, coming from nowhere and going the same route. Steel slamming steel allowing even the most primitive lady no escape or solitude. Artificial light seeking out darken corners denying shade of any sort. Microscopic images scurving past the eyes of the lens, never to outdo technology. Triggered fingers relaxing only after primer has been abandoned and secured. Metal voices tearing through conversation and concentration. Not caring or giving second thought to the intrusion. Rehabilitation and stereotype are slogans stamped on our well being. Slogans that are words and nothing more. Robotic figures pointing the way in the event we get lost or mislead. White flashes and stenciled numbers. Personality and individuality are not products of the system. Humanity stripped naked, leaving only the imagination and wonderment. A hypocritical society pushing on one end and eager administration pulling on the other end. Tug and war on emotions and feelings. Vulnerability is a thing remembered only in childhood. Steel knife and home made garrot worn like a pair of socks, never to be forgotten for fear of being forgotten forever. Handshakes, back slapping and gentle words are the only comforts, second to none. Strangers, like an island, brought together by a mutual misery and discomfort. Survival in the real is not just another word from the dictionary. Bricks of stone to obscure my fantasies and imaginings. Learning the farthest thing from a class room. Establishment that imprisons even themselves into believing that they can convince a convicted convict, simplistic morons on the horizon, idealistic society that cannot relate to or understand their own ideals.

REFORMATION-
REHABILITATION-

How can you make me understand??

B.M.



"I'm ready to go on patrol, Sarge. I have my nightstick, revolver, stun gun and handcuffs, but I can't find my sensitivity manual."

POETRY

by

KATHY LAMB

Ghosts have turned human long ago,
You have no faith in anyone.
You ghosts are so delicate these days...
It's really quite painful.
You've lost your ability to fear anyone.
The truth is...

You finished me off.
I should be gracious for such mercies,
Death has a fashionable partner,
Ah, the pity...



This is war.

This is real.

This is living all in one.

This is loving one and turning into another.

This is trying to keep warm.

This is trying to stay alive.

I am trying to remember

How I turned in my head.

And they looked at me again,

And I turned again.

Someone is

dead

Someone is dead and no one is

grieving

Being young and easy

and knowing nothing better.

I am chained...

like some undeserving animal

That people try to

avoid.



The night has destroyed my day,
It has broken through my soul;
I am far away...

my body is here
But my mind and soul is another thing
Please...

let me sleep Lord.
I need peace of mind.

I am
living
at
my
wit's
end.



Good-bye Kathy Lamb

Kathy was an unpolished diamond
So many facets, never on display
From rejecting life to finally embracing it
Her sensitivity touched the hearts of many.

Her complexity alluded most people
As did her search for understanding
What a terrible irony that her outlook on life
Became so positive shortly before she had to leave us.

These will be the last of Kathy Lamb's poems to be
printed in Tightwire.

NEWS RELEASE

Legislation Introduced to Change Release of Inmates Under Mandatory Supervision

OTTAWA-- Solicitor General Elmer MacKay today introduced two bills in the House of Commons to give the National Parole Board the power to change the provisions for release of inmates under mandatory supervision, and to make a series of technical changes to the Parole Act, the Penitentiary Act and the Prisons and Reformatories Act.

"The Conditional Release Bill will give the National Parole Board important new powers to halt the release of inmates under mandatory supervision if there are reasonable grounds to believe they would commit a violent crime," said Mr. MacKay.

The proposed legislation will provide criteria to identify such inmates and their cases will be referred to the National Parole Board for review. The Parole Board will be empowered to issue a detention order preventing an up-coming release, or to prescribe conditions, including residence in an approved facility, that must be met for the release to take place.

"In addition to denying release to those relatively few inmates who pose an exceptional risk," Mr. MacKay said, "those inmates who are serving a sentence for a violent crime and who are released under mandatory supervision will not be entitled to a second such release on the same sentence, if their first release is revoked by the Parole Board. For this group of inmates the new procedure will end what has come to be known as the 'revolving door syndrome'."

Mr. MacKay said, "I hasten to add that we must not forget the many inmates in our institutions who are exceptionally good candidates for parole. The amendments will allow for National Parole Board Review of every inmates' case by the earliest eligibility date. They could be granted some form of conditional release earlier than is now the case, which could benefit both them and the taxpayers."

The Solicitor General said, "The measures I have proposed today will allow parole and correctional officials to do their job more effectively and therefore better protect society. They will be able to use their judgement to prevent the release of the clearly dangerous inmates while accelerating the release of those who are deemed to be the best candidates for parole."

The present law has been widely criticized because correctional officials and the Parole Board could not halt the automatic release of an inmate they felt reasonably certain would commit further violent crimes. Mr. MacKay announced, shortly after his appointment as Solicitor General, that he would propose legislation to end the automatic nature of release.

June 27, 1985.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CORRECTIONAL LEGISLATION PACKAGE

CONDITIONAL RELEASE

These measures will:

- authorize the National Parole Board, according to established criteria and procedures, to retain in custody until warrant expiry, or place under strict residential conditions, those inmates considered to pose a clear risk of violent conduct beyond a release date that would have been established by earned remission,
- allow inmates convicted of those violent offences specified by the criteria only one chance for release on mandatory supervision by denying them the opportunity to earn remission following a revocation of a first release,
- establish procedural safeguards and criteria that would limit the application of the foregoing measures to only the most dangerous,
- ensure that the procedures and practices of the National Parole Board comply with the duty to act fairly and provide equality of treatment, and to equip the Board to manage better its operations.

These measures will be balanced by the use of existing statutory authority to accelerate the release of low-risk inmates into community programs with strengthened supervision and assistance.

The specific provisions of these changes are:

- (1) the National Parole Board will be empowered to order the detention until warrant expiry of any inmate who meets the criteria set out in the legislation.
- (2) An inmate could be identified as posing a high risk to public safety if he meets the following criteria to be set out in the Parole Act:
 - (a) current offence(s) for which the offender has been convicted resulted in serious personal harm such as loss of life, major physical or psychological damage.
 - (b) reasonable grounds exist to conclude that the person is likely to commit, prior to the expiry of his/her sentence a violent crime that will result in harm,
 - (c) even if an inmate does not meet criteria (a), if the Commissioner of Corrections has reasonable grounds to believe that an inmate is likely to commit, prior to the expiry of sentence, a violent crime that will result in violent harm, he may refer the case to the Chairman of the National Parole Board for a detention hearing.
- (3) Inmates who meet criteria (a) in Section (2) but are not judged to pose a high risk and are released on mandatory supervision, will not be entitled to earn remission again if that release is revoked by the Parole Board. This will effectively allow them only one chance for such a release.

- 2...
- (4) The Parole Act will be amended to clarify the nature of remission and its impact on a sentence served in a federal penitentiary; remission constitutes a credit against sentence which will entitle an inmate to release from confinement under mandatory supervision unless the National Parole Board deems that the inmate must be kept in detention until expiry of the sentence.
 - (5) The Penitentiary Act will be amended to establish that an inmate under a detention order would not be entitled to earn remission.
 - (6) The Parole Act will be amended to entitle all inmates under detention order to a yearly review of their cases to determine if the detention order should be varied. Eligibility for parole after their remission-based release date has passed will be removed.
 - (7) The Parole Act will be amended to permit the lifting of the detention order.
 - (8) A hearing before three Board members will be required.
 - (9) The Regulations will establish the guidelines to be used for making decisions in these cases.
 - (10) The Parole Board will be empowered to establish residency requirements as a condition of release.

The following two articles appeared in the Kingston Whig-Standard on the Editorial page and reflect opposing viewpoints to the Violent Offender's Act.

ASKING FOR TROUBLE

Solicitor-General Perrin Beatty want to empower the National Parole Board to hold violent prisoners in prison until they have completed their full term, even if they have behaved well. His bill is based upon the notion that if men and women are held in prison for their full term they will be less likely to endanger the public when they are released. As NDP Svend Robinson pointed out last week, the notion has no firm footing in evidence or logic.

Under existing legislation, prisoners may apply for day parole after serving one-sixth of their sentence and for full parole after serving one-third of their sentence, though parole as early as that is granted only to prisoners who can persuade the parole board that they are exceptionally good risks. Parole can be granted at any time from the earliest date to the end of the sentence.

Prisoners who have not been granted parole, whether because they haven't applied for it or because they've applied and been turned down, are released on mandatory supervision after serving two-thirds of their sentence, unless they are declared dangerous offenders or are serving life sentences.

But being released does not mean that they are free, as they used to be when they could be released under remission earned for good behaviour. Under mandatory supervision, as under parole, the sentence isn't over till it's over. Until it's over, offenders are subject to supervision. If they break any of the rules of their supervision, they may be returned to prison to serve the balance of their sentence behind bars.

The flaw in Mr. Beatty's legislation, and in the public mood of fear and anger upon which it is based, is that these violent men and women are going to be released sooner or later. It is in the public interest that when they are released they have guidance as they attempt to re-adjust to

society.

It is true that the parole system needs to be reformed to allow parole officers to do more to help their charges. But to deny any help to a person who has been locked up for five, ten, fifteen years and then put out on the street, to a world that in many important ways has passed him by, is to ask for trouble--for violent trouble.

That is what Mr. Beatty's bill would do. It would use our sentiments of fear, anger and vindictiveness against us.

We should demand that the government take steps, as the governments of some European nations have done, to ensure that punishment doesn't make people more violent than they were before they were punished. Anything else jeopardizes our security.

MICHAEL COBDEN
Whig-Standard
Sept. 16, 1985.

PAROLE BILL'S NOT PERFECT, BUT IT OFFERS SAFETY

In his Sept. 16 editorial, "Asking for trouble," Michael Cobden is in error in suggesting that the bill to empower the National Parole Board to prevent the release of violent prisoners until warrant expiry date is based on the notion that they will be less dangerous at the later date.

I was a member of the committee which made this recommendation to the solicitor general several years ago. It is intended to deal with the offender who is intent on violence upon release, if such intent can be established through the offender's own admission, or through the best of corporate correctional and professional opinion. It is based on the notion that there is no point to the provision of early release under mandatory supervision in the community, if the offender intends violence.

"Guidance" during the period of "readjustment" is a noble and practical measure in all but the most extreme cases, in which it is mocked by the serious risk to life. It is for these extreme cases the empowerment is intended.

It is not a perfect solution. It really only buys time. It could become abused. Can we really know whether or not violence would occur? However, it offers a measure of public safety in extreme cases. It offers a measure of credibility for the mandatory supervision program, which is tarnished each time an offender admits that his or her own release will risk the lives of others, is released, and fulfills his or her own prophecy.

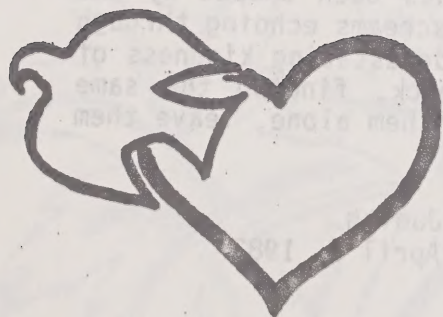
I share Mr. Cobden's idealism in wishing that punishment might never make a person more violent than before. My own idealism goes a great deal further, that society's dealings with offenders might better their lives.

I also share his dismay that better solutions seem so elusive. Just how elusive they are is a point Mr. Cobden misses, in closing with the tired and simplistic notion "We should demand that the government take steps..." I wish any of us knew what those steps were.

BRIAN YEALLAND
Whig-Standard
Sept. 26, 1985.

Dear Mr. God, my name is Tim
 and seven is my age
 I have a cat, his name is Bob
 my birdie's in a cage
 I broke my bike the other day
 why do Mommie's cry?
 I lost a tooth in Grandpa's barn
 is heaven very high?
 What is kill and where is war
 will I be very strong?
 Daddy stayed in town last night
 is dying very long?
 Pam says hi and Larry too
 they'll write you very soon
 I fell down and hurt my knee
 have you been to the moon?
 I know you're busy, I am too
 please tell me why I cry
 Does love mean something good or bad
 can angels really fly?
 Why do Daddies hurt their kids?
 Larry's treats him nice
 Is growing up a thing for me?
 please come and see my mice.
 I guess I'll go, it's getting late
 I live at 12th and Pine
 Come and see me Mr. God
 my snail is doing fine.

Vicki M.



What's life all about you asked me one day
 but I couldn't answer you then
 How could I tell you when I didn't know
 but now you can ask me again.

Life is a heartbeat, a tear and a smile
 a prayer, a tall tree, a still pool
 Life is a memory, a dream and a sigh,
 a wise man, an orphan, a fool
 Living is giving or taking or both,
 a fear, a regret, a harsh word,
 Living is love, hunger and hate,
 the sublime, the ideal, the absurd.

Living is promise, health and disease,
 sometimes a storm, a calm sea,
 Living is clay which each man can mold
 into what he may want it to be.

Vicki M.

PRISON - TEN YEARS AFTER

The following letter was written by a woman ten years after being released from Canada's federal penitentiary for women where she served her first and only prison sentence, because the penalty for being found carrying hashish across the border is a minimum of seven years. It was written to a woman who had been working in Chaplaincy at the prison at that time.

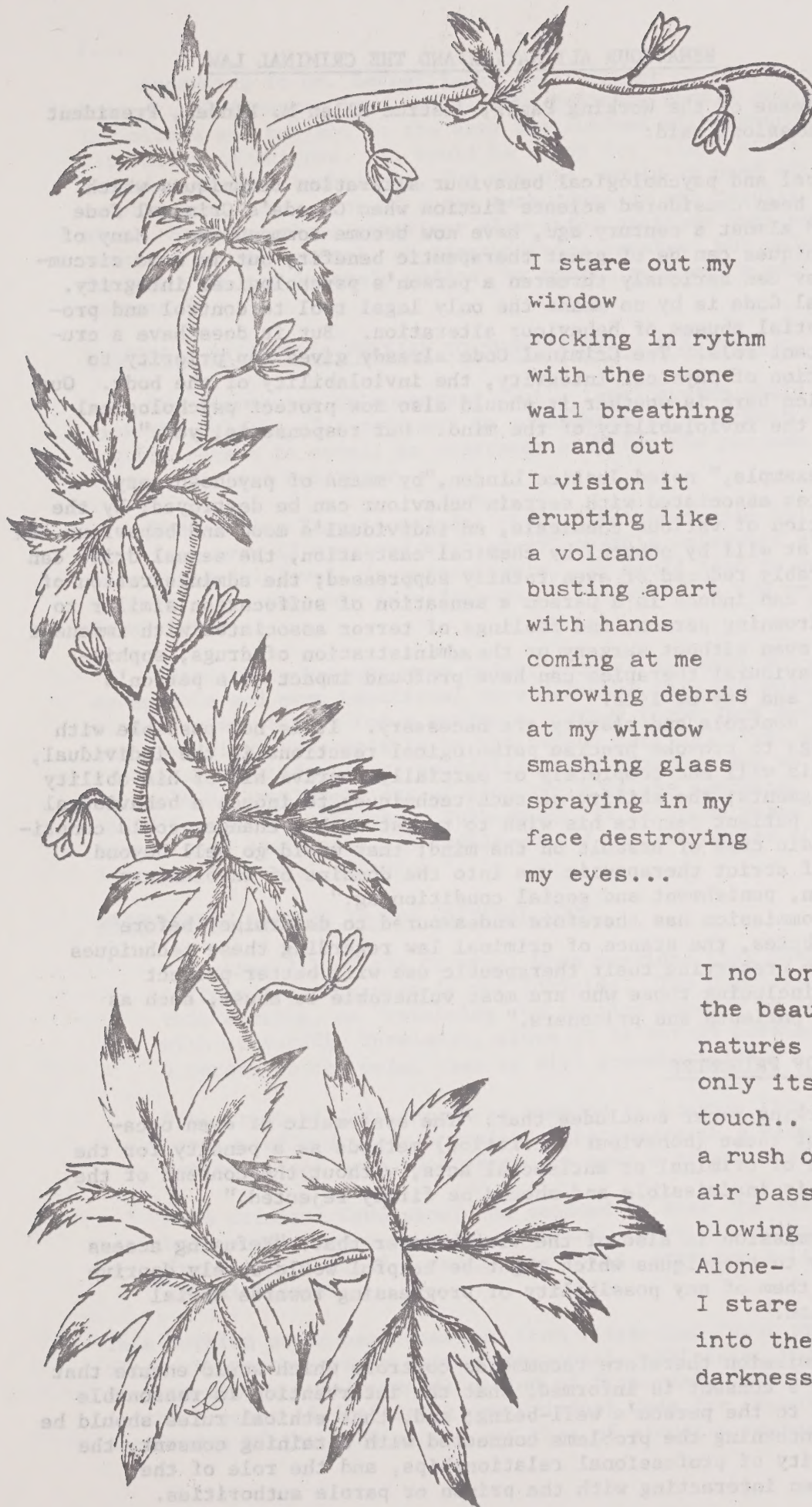
There are times for me when for no immediate apparent reason, it becomes important to try to make sense of what has gone before, to rework my sense of how the parts of who I am fit together. Part of that process seems to be to come to terms internally with what I have received from the people who have been important in my life. So this letter out of nowhere comes to you as an extravagant act of egoism.

Actually, I think what happens is that there are times when I realize more clearly than at others that life is a series of beginning agains, of going ons. And at those times I need to make a reckoning of where I have been, of antecedent going ons. Prison was for me that kind of starting over, albeit more drastic than most. So I wanted to talk to you. In part to tell you that you were a kind of redemption in the wilderness (remarkable how I slip into quasi-biblical metaphors when writing to you). Perhaps because we were/are so different, our visions so disparate, and yet we seemed so similar in our tenacious defense of those visions, that our push and shove with each other was something for me to hang onto in the madness.

In part because I need to find a way to tell myself that it was real, that the pain, the anger and fierce pride that are the residuals of my time in prison have some basis in reality. I really was there. It is I who lived through and live with the memories of that experience; it didn't happen to someone else. It is so easy to forget, to misplace, so that I am left caught unaware by an undertow of rage and hurt that seems to come out of nowhere.

And in part as an indirect way of acknowledging the other women there. I remember Riley said to me once, while checking me through the hospital after a day out while I was in the middle of my just-keep-the-outrageous-patter-going-and-you-won't-feel-a-thing act, in a voice uncharacteristically raw, "It's different for you. You'll get off of here soon and you'll never be back. But Betty will be in and out of here for the rest of her life. This is all she has." She was right about me at least. I have gone on. But part of who I am has been shaped by the incredible and wasted strength of those women, the screams echoing through the cell block, the scars from "acting out", the devastating kindness of the damaged. I still have dreams about going back, finding the same people still there and wanting to scream. "Leave them alone, leave them alone. Can't you see you've hurt them enough".

Judith
April 7, 1983



I stare out my
window
rocking in rythm
with the stone
wall breathing
in and out
I vision it
erupting like
a volcano
busting apart
with hands
coming at me
throwing debris
at my window
smashing glass
spraying in my
face destroying
my eyes...

I no longer see
the beauty of
natures calm hand...
only its destructive
touch..
a rush of violent
air passes me
blowing out my only candle...
Alone-
I stare out my window..
into the
darkness.

Jackie Beattie

BEHAVIOUR ALTERATION AND THE CRIMINAL LAW

On release of the Working Paper, Justice Allen M. Linden, President of the Commission, said:

"Medical and psychological behaviour alteration techniques which would have been considered science fiction when Canada's Criminal Code was drafted almost a century ago, have now become commonplace. Many of these techniques can be of great therapeutic benefit, but in some circumstances they can seriously threaten a person's psychological integrity. The Criminal Code is by no means the only legal tool to control and prohibit potential abuses of behaviour alteration. But it does have a crucial important role. The Criminal Code already gives top priority to the protection of physical integrity, the inviolability of the body. Our main question here is whether it should also now protect psychological integrity, the inviolability of the mind. Our response is, yes."

"For example," noted Justice Linden, "by means of psychosurgery, brain centres associated with certain behaviour can be destroyed; by the administration of various chemicals, an individual's mood and behaviour can be altered at will by others; by chemical castration, the sexual drive can be considerably reduced or even totally suppressed; the administration of other drugs can induce in a person a sensation of suffocation similar to that of a drowning person, and feelings of terror associated with imminent death; and even without surgery or the administration of drugs, sophisticated behavioural therapies can have profound impact on a person's personality and way of life."

"Legal controls and clarity are necessary. It is now possible with certain drugs to provoke precise pathological reactions in the individual, to reduce his will and completely or partially deprive him of his ability to make judgments; the ability of such techniques to induce a behavioural change in a patient despite his wish to resist such a change, could constitute a classic case of assault on the mind; that would go well beyond the realm of strict therapeutic use into the domains of involuntary re-education, punishment and social conditioning."

"The commission has therefore endeavoured to determine, before potential abuses, the stance of criminal law regarding these techniques which, while preserving their therapeutic use will better protect Canadians, including those who are most vulnerable to abuse, such as psychiatric patients and prisoners."

PROTECTION OF PRISONERS

The working paper concludes that: "The systematic or even occasional use of these (behaviour alteration) methods as a penalty for the perpetration of criminal or antisocial acts, without the consent of the individual, is inadmissible and should be firmly rejected."

The Commission is also of the view however that: "Refusing access by prisoners to techniques which might be helpful would surely deprive a number of them of any possibility of progressing towards social rehabilitation."

The Commission therefore recommends controls which would ensure that the prisoner's consent is informed, that the intervention is reasonable and directed to the person's well-being; and, that ethical rules should be developed concerning the problems connected with obtaining consent, the confidentiality of professional relationships, and the role of the therapist when interacting with the prison or parole authorities.

2...

According to Dr. Keyserlingk, Co-ordinator of the Protection of Life Project: "Prisoners, like psychiatric patients should remain psychologically inviolable and subject to the same protections with regard to behaviour alteration techniques. It would be wrong for prison staff to assume that aversion therapy techniques, for example, could be used without consent on prisoners since some of these techniques do not require physical intrusion. However, these behaviour alteration programs must not be used as a means of social control, or tranquilizing inmates, but only as a means of dealing with the inmate's medical or mental problems - and with his or her consent."

LINKING A PRISONER'S RELEASE TO SUBMISSION TO TREATMENT

The commission is concerned that a legal system could be tempted to link the release of a prisoner to submission to treatment or to force an accused person to submit to treatment only for the purpose of preventing future criminal behaviour.

The Working Paper concludes that; "The Commission believes that this practice, even if provided with every possible safeguard at the structural and procedural level, is unacceptable...It would lead to an arbitrary and therefore unacceptable interference of the state in the private lives of it's citizens.

"Certain techniques used today, such as detoxification therapy, are acceptable and even beneficial provided that they are voluntary and not used as a substitute for a sentence. Other techniques such as castration are completely unacceptable in the prison setting. Even with consent that technique is so invasive, so difficult to reverse, and so permanent that it would be completely out of proportion to the sentences normally provided for sexual offences. Furthermore, it is by no means certain or agreed that castration can really modify the tendencies to violence inherent in sexual offences."

RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE CRIMINAL CODE

* Section 211 of the Criminal Code provides that death caused by influence on the mind is not homicide. The Commission would repeal this section, as "retaining the section appears to be incompatible with scientific knowledge, since it is surely possible to condition a person to the point that it will provoke death."

*The Criminal Code should be amended to provide that the administration of a drug or a noxious substance with a view to causing psychological harm to a person be made a criminal offence.

*The Criminal Code should be amended so that the definition of bodily harm covers cases in which a person, aware of another's morbid or irrational fear of a particular thing, arranges a 'trap' to induce mental illness.

This Working paper has benefited from widespread input provided by psychologists, psychiatrists, prison personnel, ethicists, inmate groups and lawyers over a developmental period of five years. The Commission is now in the process of drafting a new Criminal Code for Canadians to reflect the Canada of the 1980's, and not that of almost a century ago.

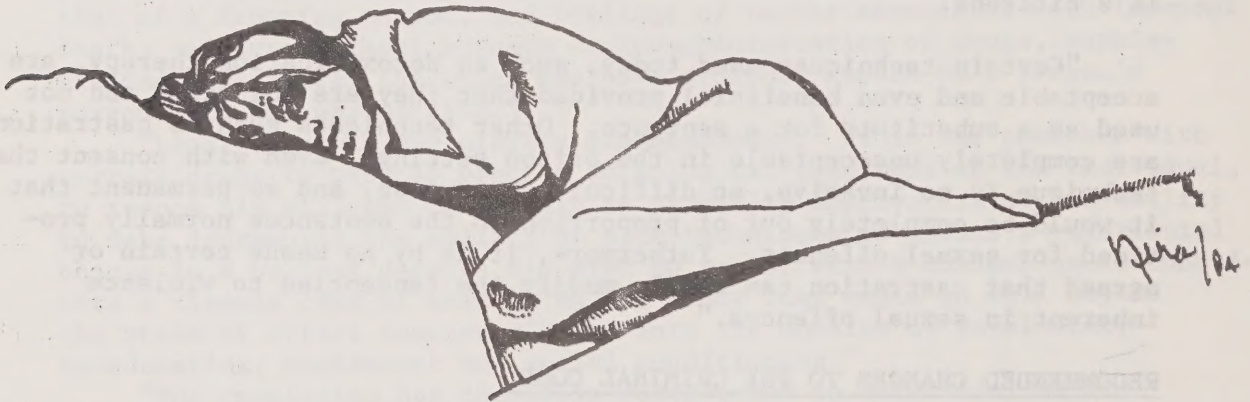
PRISON MENTAL HEALTH

The contents of your mind
like garbled messages intertwined
with the careful need to fail...

as you toy with prison help
what is it that drives you
to the couch
but your own cry
for recognition.

A cry that will never be heard
beyond the centuries of screams
found within the mental health profession

You would not open your legs
to strangers
Why then
your mind?



Give me your most professional
psychiatric smile

I'd trade it anyday
for a hand-rolled cigarette
your let's get together
and work it all out speech
but it will never be worked out
until I conform to your
heterosexual expectations

only then will I be labelled
cured

my file stamped with your approval
my custody changed
to a more livable and decent environment
I will continue to live in the toilet bowl
You have doomed me to
And I will continue to exercise my right to be me.

Mikki Verlyn Culver

What your favorite color says about you

What you see is what you get when it comes to personal preference in colors. Your likes and dislikes of particular colors are a dead giveaway to your personality, physical condition, and mental attitude. Color psychology is not just a bunch of mumbo or hocus-pocus, it is a sound scientific evaluation of the normal reactions that people have toward colors in their everyday environments.

GRAY as a favorite color indicates that you are a loner and do not care to get too involved in any one area. If you dislike gray, you are a go-getter.

BLUE indicates that you can handle just about any situation without becoming too emotionally upset. If you dislike blue, you have a short fuse.

AQUA as your number-one color choice tells us that you have an above-average ability for selection and design and will dress and decorate with superb taste. Rejection of aqua means that you are one and who objects easily and without any specific reason.

GREEN as your favorite color lets the world know that you don't have too much to hide and are proud as peaches of yourself and your actions. Reject green and you let it be known that you don't think you are being given an even break from people around you.

RED as a number-one choice tells the world that you like everything about it and the people in it. You like to try new things just for the hell of it. Put red down and you let it be known that you are lacking in self-confidence and you tend to let people walk all over you.

ORANGE as your favorite color tells us that you like a good time as much as the next person but you must have a goal in mind, such as income, health, or improved position in job or life. Thumbs down to orange simply means you don't have time to waste on phony folks, ideas, or actions.

PINK is a sure sign that you are more than just a little spoiled, self-centered, selfish, and afraid to grow old. You might also tend to appear conceited on many occasions. If you are turned off by the color pink, it is a sign that you can look out for yourself. You don't like to waste time, effort, and money, and as a rule, you say what you think at the time (you don't mean any harm but you do hurt feelings easily).

LAVENDER at the top of your color list says that you are warm, gentle, outgoing, unrealistic, a follower but seldom a leader, and you do not like to hear things the way they really are. When lavender is a disliked color, you can bet the person can see the forest for the trees, gets the most out of life because he knows what is beyond his reach and why, and does not waste time or energy worrying about it but moves on to realistic goals and achievements.

YELLOW as a first preference generally shows that you are always on the move, looking for something but not quite sure what. You will darn near always be the first one to offer a helping hand to anyone you know. Turn your back on yellow and you let folks know that they always have to keep proving their love, devotion, and honesty to you.

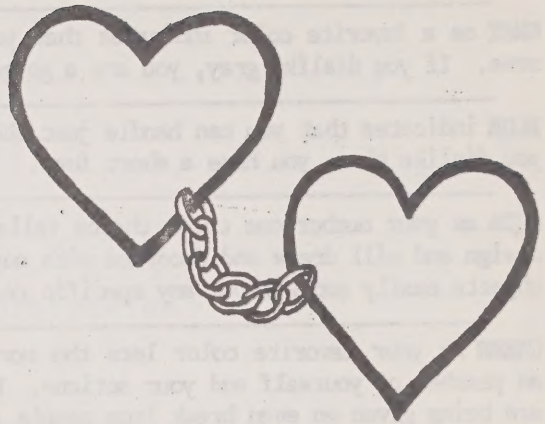
BROWN lets it be known that you can be a great friend, good provider, and an excellent lover; however, if anyone deceives you, even a little bit, you never forgive and never forget. You are not vindictive with cause but are hard and stubborn. Say no to brown and we can count on you to show up for work or play without fail. It will take a lot to make you say "uncle", because you have a physical drive factor par excellence.

BLACK as a first choice lets people know that they shouldn't ever cross you, because your temper tantrum could be physically or financially disastrous. You are tough to reason with. If black is your last choice, you can be considered one of the crowd.

SOMEONE IS SPECIAL

I could sit and look at you
Knowing you understand.
How deep my depression goes,
I Need your helping hand.
Friendship is for trusting
In everyway you can,
That's why I've come to you
To set my feet on solid land.
As each day passes,
And I think of you,
I can really be grateful
I've found a friend so true.

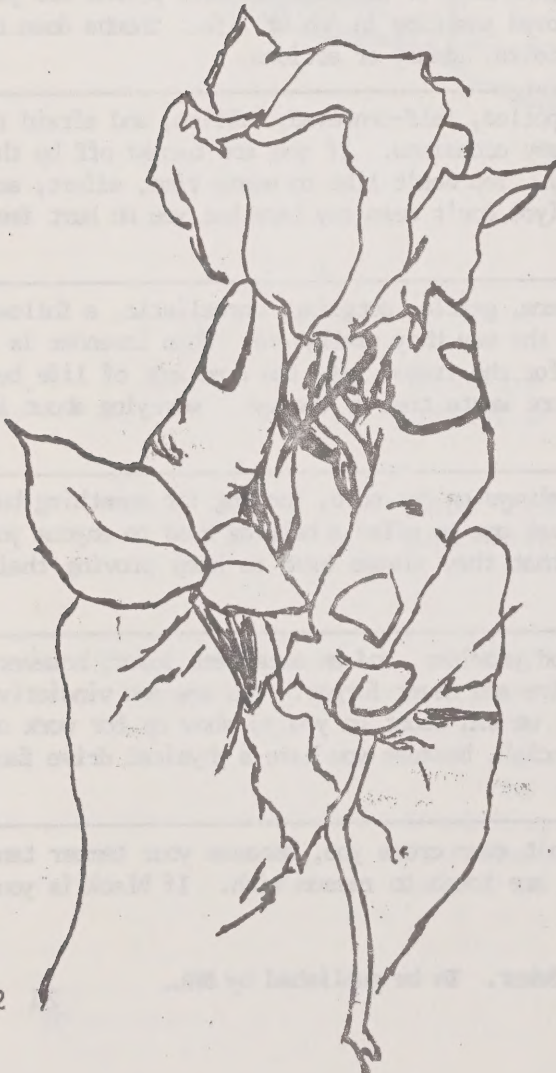
Phoebe Reid



MISSING YOU

I do not need a special day
To bring you to my mind,
The days I do not think of you
Are very hard to find.
They say that time heals all sorrow,
And that time helps us to forget,
But so far time has only shown
How much I miss you yet.
They say that memories are golden,
Well, maybe this is true,
But I never wanted memories...
I only wanted you.

Phoebe Reid



NATIVE



SISTERHOOD

The Plight of Native Prisoners

For many Canadian Indians in the 19th century, a stretch in prison meant a sentence of death.

The reasons were both physical and psychological. Because Native people had less resistance to disease, it was considered common for them to sick-en and die in prison. But a more subtle, spiritual malady was affecting the Native prisoner. At the time, Native people were experiencing drastic changes in their lifestyle. Their traditional way of life was changing. They had also lost most of their land and were being kept on reservations as wards of the government. This government was indifferent to Native culture and believed these people had to be "Canadianized", "Christianized" and above all "civilized".

The prison system believed Native people should abandon their "superstitions" and adjust to the white man's way of life. As a result, the Indians languished in confinement and sorely missed the freedom of their outdoor life. The prison rides made no sense to them.

The saddest aspect of the Native prisoners' plight was that often they did not understand why they were in prison. Frequently, they had been convicted of deeds their own people did not consider criminal.

In 1906, only 1.5 per cent of all federal prisoners were Native. By 1979, this had risen to approximately 9 per cent. Native people only make up 4 per cent of the general population. This sparked major concern for organizations such as the National Indian Brotherhood. There have also been innovations in the criminal justice system. These innovations are meant to ease the plight of the Native prisoners. The courts have introduced alternatives to imprisonment for Native Offenders. Sometimes Native convicts are allowed to serve their time in their community by doing volunteer work.

In the penitentiaries, the attitudes toward Native culture has changed somewhat. Authorities are now beginning to recognize the value of cultural programs in increasing Native offenders self-esteem. Native lawyers, courtworkers and correctional liaison workers are beginning to bridge the gap between the Native offenders and the white mans's laws.

Native prisoners are now emerging from their own dependence and passivity and undertaking their own rehabilitation. Self-help groups now operate on both sides of the wall and friendship centres are offering practical help and counselling to parolees.

The Correctional Service has also been emphasizing programs focusing on the special needs of the Native prisoner. Natives now have the right to practice their own religion (sweat lodges, sweet grass ceremonies) inside the walls.

However, one must not forget that it has been a long and constant struggle to be able to practice Native Spirituality inside the walls. It is not as if C.S.C. has made it easy for the Native Prisoner by giving it to them on a silver plater. There are many prisoners across Kanada who are not being given their right to practice their Native Spiritual Ways.

Cross cultural awareness programs are offered, as well as courses in life skills, finding a job. Native culture and literacy training, some of them in Native languages.

ANNA MAE AQUASH

Anna Mae Aquash,
On your death, my heart weeps.
Why does my heart beat so,
When yours has been snuffed out?

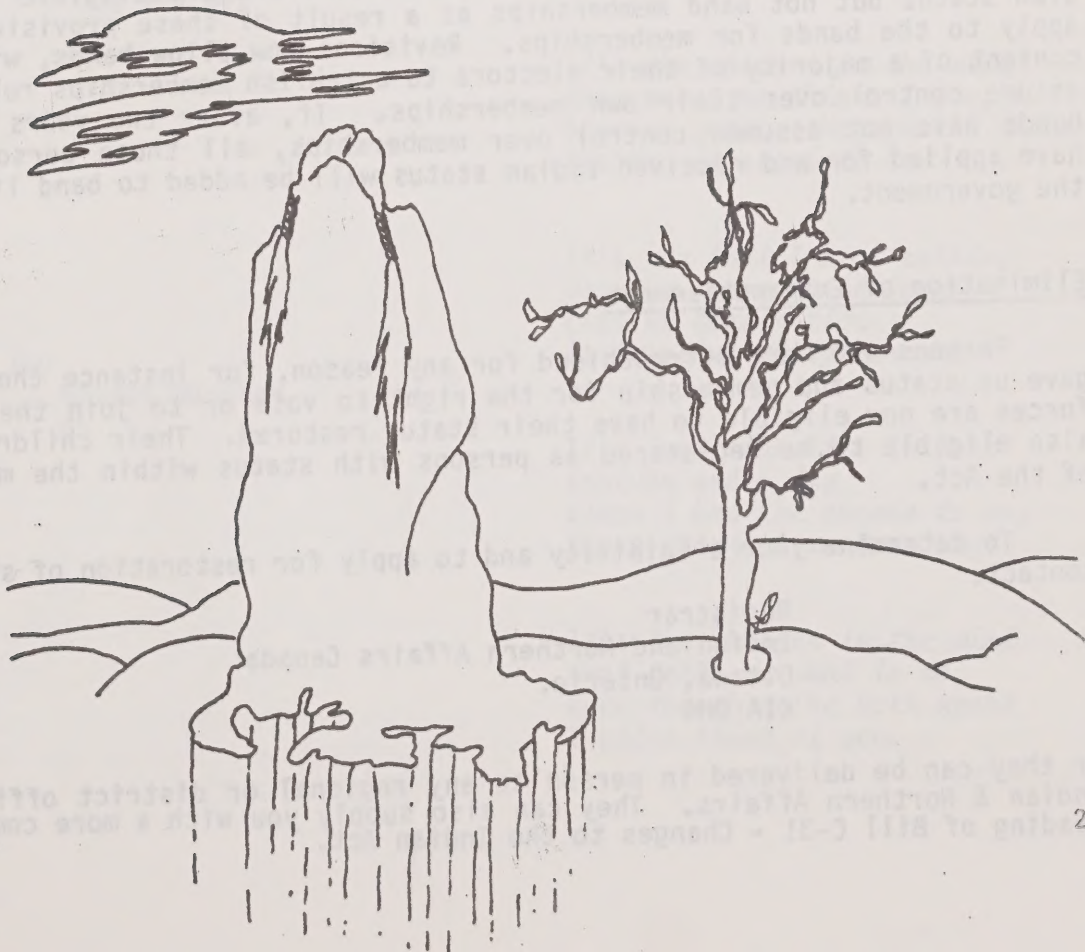
Anna Mae Aquash,
I feel frustration as you die.
I am almost afraid to live.
Could I ever be as brave as you?

Anna Mae Aquash,
A victim of the unjust society.
Could the white society ever
Repay for what it has done?

Anna Mae Aquash,
Your soul will never rest.
Will the American Indian Movement
Ever forget their loss?

Anna Mae Aquash,
The Indian nation mourns,
Especially in Shubenacadie.
I mourn deep within myself.

Mary Mudd
June 10, 1978.



Changes to the Indian Act

Bill C-31

Introduction

Important changes were made to Canada's "Indian Act" on June 28, 1985, when parliament passed Bill C-31, an Act to amend the Indian Act. The Act has been brought into accord with the provisions of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, to assure equality of treatment to men and women.

Major Amendments

Removal of Sexual Discrimination from the Act

In the past the Indian Act discriminated against Indian Women on the basis of sex and marital status. An Indian woman who married a non-Indian automatically lost her status, her band membership and the right to pass status on to her children. Anyone who lost Indian status and band membership as a result of sexual discrimination, as well as any of their children who were band members at the time rights were lost, are now eligible to have status and rights restored.

Band Control of Memberships

Registration of a person's status under the Act by the federal government used to give them band memberships automatically. The Indian bands themselves had no statutory role in determining who was recognized as a member. Amendments to the Act have changed that and now Bands may determine their own memberships. Those persons who are eligible for Indian status but not band memberships as a result of these provisions can apply to the bands for memberships. Revisions now allow bands, with the consent of a majority of their electors to establish memberships rules and assume control over their own memberships. If, after two years Indian bands have not assumed control over memberships, all those persons who have applied for and received Indian status will be added to band lists by the government.

Elimination of Enfranchisement

Persons who were enfranchised for any reason, for instance those who gave up status and membership for the right to vote or to join the armed forces are now eligible to have their status restored. Their children are also eligible to be registered as persons with status within the meaning of the Act.

To determine your eligibility and to apply for restoration of status, contact:

Registrar
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Ottawa, Ontario.
K1A 0H4

or they can be delivered in person to any regional or district office of Indian & Northern Affairs. They can also supply you with a more complete reading of Bill C-31 - Changes to the Indian Act.

Friendship lasts forever

Good friends don't say goodbye
and walk away if things get tough,
cause if they do they never were
good friends that's true enough.

Good friends will walk together
even though they're both apart,
cause something special binds them both
together from the heart.

Good friends don't feel the need to speak
with silent things to say,
cause they're at ease together
each and every single day.

Good friends don't ask for anything
but offer in return,
cause everything they give away
comes back again they learn.

Good friends share understanding
and the wisdom they both know,
cause friendship lasts forever
up until the day you go.

written by;

Harold Gaucher

85



Whisper in the wind

It's the whisper in the wind
that makes me think of you,
blowing gently through the trees
the way it seems to do.

It's you that I hear calling
your no where to be found,
like my imagination
is twisting things around.

It's just like it's forever
forever and a day,
since I had the chance to say
those things I want to say.

It's the whisper in the wind
that tells me what to do,
even though we're both apart
I often think of you.

Satirically Yours

They Deserve It-

(originally published in Horizons - Sept. 1985)

An Alberta judge recently reduced a man's 30 day sentence for breaking his wife's elbow, slapping and kicking her, because according to the judge, she provoked him by yelling and acting like a shrew? "She tormented him and therefore, asked to be beaten", concluded Chief Justice William MacGillivray.

I consider this decision a positive landmark in Canadian jurisprudence.

I have been wondering for weeks what to do about the man of my volleyball team who chooses to ignore the fact that I'm just learning to spike and who matters complementary remarks when I bang the ball into the net rather than over it. Acts like a shoat, he does. Obviously just asking for it. I won't get more than a weekend in jail for rearranging his kneecaps.

Then there's my brother - We're of different political persuasions, and as a result, we argue a lot. I, of course, remain logically calm and reasonable throughout these exchanges, while he often rudely yells at me. I'm glad to know that I can now do something about him provoking me. I used to beat him up when we were kids and with the help of the karate I've learned since the Alberta judge made his decision, I'm sure I can still do so.

And my father, he's a nice man and I love him dearly, just as I am sure the Alberta man loves his wife. Nevertheless, my father has been yelling at me for years. Especially when I borrow things. For example, last month I borrowed his lawn mower. I asked most politely and then when I returned it three weeks later he shouted at me. Most unreasonable, he's not going to get away with such behavior anymore though. The next time he provokes me, I intend to fetch him a smart one.

Then there is Sam, one of my bridge partners. Sam is a good sort but his bidding is erratic. He often overbids with wild abandon and gets me into contracts an expert couldn't make. Then he makes rude remarks when I don't succeed. The man provokes me everytime we play bridge and I'm not going to take it any longer.

Worst of all, there's the proprietor of what used to be my corner store. When I politely expressed my objection to the hard core porn magazines he sells, he yelled abuse at me. Now, instead of walking two blocks out of my way and contenting myself with telling everyone I know why I no longer shop there, I'll go back and practice my karate on him.

All in all, there are quite a few people who provoke me and therefore, deserve a good beating.

I've been momentarily tempted in the past to whack them one or break a few bones, so obviously are they asking for it, but I've always worried that the law might not allow me to beat up people just because they deserved it.

Now that I know it is O.K., I intend to straighten out my interpersonal relationships.

It is indeed encouraging to know that at long last, the courts recognize that some people provoke beatings and that these who insist on behaving like sheens or shoats can no longer expect to get away with it.

The End -

Lyn Cockburn.

TIGER

I was never the man-eating
tiger
You almost convinced me
I was.

You mistook my snarl...
it was laughter.
You misunderstood my claws...
I needed attention.

The tiger-gold in my eyes
was the sun...
Drowned in growls of
Storm clouds.

I would gladly have given
my skin
for your
Trophy Room...

But you were never the
Mystical Rajah
I almost convinced you
you were.

Elysabeth Nancy Faslund



A PICTURE FOR BONNIE

Into a vessel
The flow; a vail
pouring out.
Almost transparent
Then it's over,
Into a saucer
From which tis drunken
Back behind further walls,
What obscure this drink.

Beyond the back wall
Lies, where thrown:
What must have been...
A ceramic jug.
Moss covered now,
At home amongst stones.
Exposed...Ignored...
Ignored and exposed,
But nothing else shows
Of it being broken.

Ken Cound.
Archambault

Report on Prison Overcrowding Conference - Jake Friesen

"Toronto's jails rank with the worst I have seen in almost 20 years of visiting penal institutions." That's how Sean McConville a British expert and an adviser to the British Parliament described the conditions of Toronto's Metro West Detention Centre and Don Jail at the recent conference on overcrowding. "The jails are a disgrace to this city and province and an insult to a fine law abiding community", he stated. Of the Metro West, he said that "though it is unquestionably a well designed institution, it now is a place of fear, stress, squalor and degradation. It has cells with tense, potentially violent and largely unsupervisable men." Said the Toronto Star in their editorial the next day, "if the conditions are even half as bad as described by McConville, we need action fast."

The conference on Overcrowding in Ontario prisons was co-sponsored by John Howard Society of Ontario and the Ontario Council for Community Alternatives to Prison. Each started planning separately, than discovered the other's plans and decided to hold one conference jointly. The conference came about partially at the request of the Collins Bay chapter of John Howard Society, we were told. They identified overcrowding as a significant factor in the increase in tension and violence in that institution.

Desmond Ellis, professor of Sociology and coordinator of the LaMarsh Centre for Violence and Conflict Resolution at York University, explained to us what overcrowding is. Crowding, he says, is not just a matter of spatial density. Some prisons can be more crowded physically than others without the accompanying effects of crowding. Crowding, he says, occurs when the number of prisoners or the space available interferes with the style of life to which prisoners have become accustomed. This, he says, may depend on such things as the size of prisons, the age of prisoners, the racial make-up of the prison population and the gender of prisoners, movement in and out of prisons increases instability which affects crowding.

In closing, Ellis explained why his information came mainly from federal prisons. Ontario Correctional Services, he said are unwilling to release information about their jails.

A panel discussion consisting of Professor John Gandy, Professor Keith Jobson and Gordon Stewart discussed solutions to the problem. It was heartening to note that not one during the conference suggested prison construction as the answer. It seemed to be the consensus that we don't need more space, we have to many prisoners. Gandy stressed that building more prisons is a knee jerk reaction. We need to provide services that will keep people in the community, he said. He advocated that we re-examine how we use prisons.

Keith Jobson quickly focused on imprisonment in lieu of unpaid fines. 38% of prisoners admitted to Ontario jails are in for this offence, most of them because they cannot pay. This is, Jobson said, imprisonment for being poor and may in fact be illegal. The onus should be on the judge to make sure that the accused can pay the fine before it is given. Jobson also called for a made in Canada sentencing policy to replace the present system, which he described as anarchy.

The third panelist, Gordon Stewart described the solutions to overcrowding by referring to a bathtub filling up with water. One could resolve the problem by turning off the tap, by pulling the drain plug, or by building a new wing to the tub. The problem with the last option, he commented, is that we will have enough water to fill the new wing long before it is finished. Graham suggested several modest changes which, he said, would solve the problem. These methods, he said, have already been tried and found successful. Among those he suggested were capping the prison population, the abolition of mandatory supervision and a return to statutory remission, and a more aggressive use of parole.

The conference was designed to allow maximum discussion between the advocates for change and the representatives of the various governmental departments. To what extent any real communication took place is debatable. Unfortunately as far as QCJJ is concerned, little opportunity was provided for further strategizing around the overcrowding problem. QCJJ also felt keenly the under representation of women, ethnic minorities and ex-prisoners as conference speakers. Nevertheless, there was a good deal of informal networking and on hopes, the conference will stimulate action both by individuals and agencies as well as co-operatively among the participants.

Myth There are no strong myths associated with Aquarius. The god Hapi, watering from two jars, was an ancient symbol of the river Nile, and in Babylon the god Ea (see also for Capricorn) was sometimes called 'the god with streams'. The Babylonian name for Aquarius, GU.LA, was at first associated with the goddess of childbirth and healing.



Positive Aquarian traits Humanitarian, independent; friendly, willing; a progressive outlook, original, inventive; a reforming spirit; faithful, loyal; idealistic; intellectually inclined.



Negative Aquarian traits Unpredictable, eccentric; rebellious, contrary; tactless; fixed in his opinions; perverse, straining to be unconventional.



Character Kind, friendly, rather distant, and frequently unpredictable; one's first impression of an Aquarian is a sympathetic one, and indeed he will generally be a sympathetic character. But the feeling of distance is also important: the Aquarian will be ready to help others at a moment's notice, but will always remain personally detached. Often it is extremely difficult to feel really close to him.

Personal independence is of enormous importance to him, and he is capable of making great sacrifices for it - even to the point of rejecting intimate relationships. More conventional people will, for these reasons - and because of his unpredictability - find themselves at odds with him, particularly since his pursuit of 'causes' - anti-war protest, maybe, or devotion to a particular charity - will strike them as 'different', even unsympathetic. Their attitude will not worry him: he will shrug his shoulders, used to being 'out on a limb'. He will always have an original streak, and his application of this can range from finding new and original outlets for his artistic talent or scientific ability, to a passion for originality at all costs, leading to crankiness, pseudo-artiness, or wildly unconventional forms of absentmindedness.

Although he will be much in favour of reform and change, and the advancement of the human condition, he may equally be stubborn - modern in outlook, but fixed in his opinion. He is not easily persuaded that he is wrong. Some find this mixture of kind friendliness and obstinate insistence on the rightness of his own opinions very disconcerting. The result is that the Aquarian has an aloof glamour that is fascinating and dynamic - but not warm or endearing.



Mind The Aquarian is not concerned with what other people think, and will often simply not bother to form an opinion of their behaviour. Not that he lacks imagination: his thinking is often ahead of its time, and clean-cut and clinical in style - rational, intelligent and intuitive. He will probably be

AQUARIUS

Masculine Air Fixed
Ruling planet: Uranus
Keywords: Independently

Sun-sign period
c 20 January to
19 February



broadminded, too; though often what one takes for broadmindedness is simply a display of indifference. Not having bothered to find out how other people really think, the Aquarian will let their opinions pass.

His mind is scientific in type: he approaches problems analytically. He may not be a scientist, however, although many Aquarians are. The placing of Mercury must be assessed for a guide to his mental balance. If Aquarius rises, the more unpredictable side of his nature will be stabilized if Mercury is in Taurus, Virgo or Capricorn. If Aquarius is the Sun-sign, there is a good chance of Mercury being in Capricorn; the stability this gives will be off-set somewhat because the Aquarian will also be a little harder and more brittle in character (these characteristics are already evident in the type).



Emotional Relationships The married Aquarian needs to retain a considerable degree of independence, even if there are young children in the family. This will demand a large measure of understanding and tolerance on his partner's side, for it is unwise to give an Aquarian the feeling of being trapped. All in all this does not make family life easy, and it is perhaps true that Aquarians feel most at ease when living alone, able to feel free in all respects. The good Aquarian marriage is extremely stable, however; he is very loyal and faithful, although his dispassionate nature can often prove a source of conflict.



Career Scientist, writer, sociologist, charity worker, astrologer, astronomer, archaeologist, industrial worker (particularly in television), radiographer, inventor; a career in the Air Force or work for the United Nations.

Independence, originality, and scope for inventiveness must be used by the Aquarian if he is to be happy in his work; a dull routine will bore him. These qualities are best used by him in humanitarian work, and one thinks immediately of the United Nations forces: he would be at his best working to raise the standard of living of remote people. He can do a dull job, of course; but will be wasted in it; given his head he will be capable of great invention, and will bring a fresh approach to any task he undertakes.



He is a born scientist, and is often involved either in something very new and modern - the space programme, biochemistry, or perhaps the latest astronomical techniques - or in something concerned with the deep past, such as ancient history, research into men's remote origins. Similarly, if he is an actor, he will probably be drawn to the most avant-garde aspects of the theatre.

The Aquarian can utilize his originality and scientific flair in spare-time activities; he may like to learn to fly, or to organize archaeological digs. He will feel strong revolutionary tendencies; whether he makes use of them is a matter for him.



Parent and Child The Aquarian will want his child to be as independent as himself, and he will support the most modern educational techniques. He may also attempt to force an old head onto young shoulders; he will freely discuss all controversial questions with his children, and should have no difficulty in maintaining close contact with them. He may not be eager to change his own opinions; but he will always want to know what is going on in the minds of his children; he will be friendly, rational and kind. If he sounds too ideal, one must remember that it is all too likely that real affection may be somewhat lacking; if other members of the family are more generous in showing their affection, the Aquarian parent may find that there is something missing between him and his children. He will not in any event create scenes; he is not made that way.

The Aquarian child should be clever, and ought to be encouraged to develop his natural inventiveness as early as possible. Chemistry sets will attract him, as will books on astronomy. He may be musical, and want to play some slightly unusual instrument - the flute, for instance. He will be quick to learn, and his school reports should be encouraging; but he may tend to be erratic, and should be helped to work evenly, if possible. Like his adult counterpart, he will have considerable charm, and may tend to be somewhat bossy.



PISCES

Feminine Water Mutable
Ruling planet: Neptune
Keywords: Nebulously, impressionably

Sun-sign period
c 20 February to
21 March



The Myth Terrified by the giant Typhon, Venus and Cupid hurled themselves into the Euphrates and became fishes. Minerva commemorated the event by placing the fishes in the heavens. The Babylonians knew the constellation as KUN, or the Tails; it was also known as the Leash - upon which were tied the two fish-goddesses Anunitum and Simmah.



Positive Piscean traits Humble, compassionate, sympathetic; emotional; unworldly, sensitive; adaptable, impressionable; kind; intuitive; receptive.



Negative Piscean traits Vague, careless; secretive; easily confused; unable to cope with the practical running of their lives; weak-willed, indecisive.



Character Of all the signs, Pisces is the most susceptible to outside influence. The Piscean is very sensitive indeed, extremely unworldly and impractical, and always eager to try and escape from reality. Other areas of the Chart will show to what extent he is able to counteract these potentially negative tendencies.

On the positive side, the Piscean has great compassion and an ability to relieve the suffering of others: either practically, perhaps by nursing them, or in a more remote sense through prayer or meditation. But he cannot stand too much reality. If he is wise, he escapes 'positively', through the arts - by developing a flair, perhaps on a professional level, for poetry, acting, mime or dancing. If he is unwise, he may allow himself to escape through drugs, which will accentuate his natural weak will and indecisiveness. For this reason he will find it more than usually difficult to fight against their influence and must avoid ever starting to take them.

One can readily use 'watery' metaphors in speaking of Pisceans, for their characteristics are often those of the sea, with its hidden depths, sudden storms, and strong and shifting currents. The Piscean's torrent of emotion is so deep and strong that he himself may be confused and tormented by it. The more he can impose a creative shape on it, the greater chance he has of coming to terms with it psychologically. Some of the world's most inspired artists have this sign prominent in their Charts, and have been able to use their emotions through their art. Confusion, diffuseness and lack of purpose can turn the Piscean's emotion in on himself - and all will be lost.

It is not easy for the Piscean to conform; he cannot cope with discipline or routine, and will not run his life in anything like a regimented or orderly way. His natural kindness, sympathy, charm and genuine 'softness' will inspire his friends, and because of his delightful manner they will probably not even notice the chaos which all too often abounds in the Piscean home.

Piscean sentimentality can sometimes annoy other, more practical, down-to-earth people; but to make up for this, his devotion and helpfulness to others is something from which more materialistic people can learn, revealing as it does an approach to life so very different to their own.



Mind When the Piscean does present his ideas or decisions in a coherent form, it will probably be without really knowing how they got into that state. He will not lack ideas, but sorting the wheat from the chaff will present great problems. Many of his ideas will indeed be quite impracticable, and someone will have, delicately, to point this out to him. 'Ha!' he will say blandly, 'I'd not thought of it in that way. Of course you are right.'

The Piscean needs a hero: if he is an artist, he will choose someone of the highest calibre in that field. He is likely to be more receptive to religion than those with other signs more prominent; yet his work can be his religion. He needs very strongly to identify; he needs to have a source of inspiration - his own god; perhaps a lover.

The Piscean is highly intuitive, and can develop psychic and mediumistic abilities. He should, however, approach these areas with some initial scepticism.



Emotional Relationships The Piscean must be careful in his approach to emotional relationships. He can easily be carried away and discover, when it is too late, that the marvellous attributes he saw in his mistress do not really exist. He will find it difficult to cope with the practical aspects of marriage. He makes a wonderful lover, and has a real flair for the romantic. If Pisces is rising there will be a surprisingly critical attitude towards the partner, which can steady his more nebulous attitudes. Romantic tendencies will be increased if Venus also occupies Pisces.



Career Actor, dancer, writer or poet, fishmonger, shoe trade, Navy, nurse (and the medical profession generally), hypnotist, illusionist, photographer, priest.

The Piscean should not in principle consider a career in which discipline or noise play too great a part. However, he would accept, for instance, the discipline of a life in the nursing profession, because the positive expression of his basic psyche would be so rewarding for him. And if he becomes a professional dancer, he will find himself able to become part of a company and work well within that discipline, because he has the capacity to mould himself to his work and become part of an overall set-up.

Generally speaking, the arts form the core of the Piscean's personality; he is not drawn to science. He may find some difficulty in rationalizing his artistic instincts - which may not come to the fore in his work at all, but in his spare-time activities. But if he can come to terms with his ideas and consciously make something of them, he will be a considerable artist.

Those who feel drawn to a religious life will find the Piscean influence helpful, adding much to their predisposition to healing the sick and lightening others' burdens.



Parent and Child Pisceans will find it difficult to insist on any form of correction - even verbal; and there is for that reason a strong tendency for the children of Pisceans to be spoilt. It is difficult to advise them how to combat this: but the position of the Moon in the Chart can help, if Pisces is the Sun-sign. If Pisces is rising, a slightly harsher critical element may balance over-indulgence.

The Piscean parent will give his children a splendid artistic background; but he must recognize his failings in practical matters - tidiness, punctuality, and so on - and make sure his children do not copy him.

The Piscean child will not be happy at a strict or over-academic school. He will dislike facts, except in the context of such subjects as history, which will stimulate his imagination. He may be good at languages, and should not find it difficult to acquire the necessary accent. He should be allowed to paint, and ballet classes or skating lessons are advisable. He will not like robust sports. The more artistic his interests, the more positive will be the satisfaction he gets.

ARIES

Masculine Fire Cardinal
Ruling planet: Mars
Keywords: Assertively, urgently

The Myth Phrixus, son of Nepele, falsely accused of ravishing Bladice, was condemned to death, but rescued by a golden ram, on whose back he escaped with his sister Helle. She became giddy and fell off; but Phrixus reached safety, and sacrificed the ram to Zeus, who placed its likeness in the heavens. Years later the ram's fleece became famous, when Jason captured it.



Positive Arian traits A pioneering and adventurous spirit; enterprising, courageous, direct in his approach; highly energetic, hating restriction, loving freedom.



Negative Arian traits Selfish, always putting himself first; unsubtle, impulsive, pugnacious; a satirist, quick-tempered, impatient - wanting everything now.

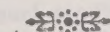


Character People with a strong Arian influence are enthusiastic, generous, lively. They rapidly grasp the essentials of a situation. This can also have its drawbacks, for in seeing the whole shape of a problem they may tend to overlook its details. They can be quick in other ways: quick, for instance, to give offence. They may be so eager to come to grips with an argument that they will speak brashly or aggressively - they're no diplomats.

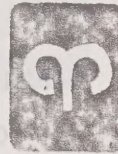
They may be quick-tempered, and will at their worst be extremely selfish. This can take many forms: an Arian may be so keen to look after himself that he will forget to consider his friends; he may even tell quite blatant lies to avoid a minor inconvenience - though on the whole he will be such a bad liar that others can immediately see through him. But however selfish he may be, it is not hard to make him see sense; when his selfishness is pointed out to him, he will readily acknowledge the fact.

The Arian is a quick-witted, restless character, and finds it difficult to be patient in any situation he dislikes. He will put up with adverse conditions only so long as he is confident they will eventually bring him what he wants. It may well be his desire to achieve his own ends that drives him to take risks; Arian bravery and disregard for danger are legendary.

The Arian's tendency to take risks is not always confined to dangerous situations. He may win a medal for bravery, or merely a reputation for being the most careless and dangerous driver in the neighbourhood. The Arian who feels spurred to drive fast might well take this compulsion to a logical conclusion - not by killing himself, but by becoming a really expert driver. On a less lethal level, the Arian tends to cut or burn himself without noticing. He has headaches more often than most people, although he does not mind noise; on occasion he likes it.



Sun-sign period
c 22 March to
20 April



Mind The Arian may seem difficult and not be an easy friend. He has, however, an enormous fund of energy, lively as well as powerful, and does not take kindly to restrictions or monotony. Both at work and in personal relationships, he appears at his best when he is given enough freedom.

However trying the Arian may be, his quickness of wit, often satirical, will come to his rescue; he can almost always be relied upon to make his friends laugh, even at the most unlikely moments. But that quickness is also a danger, for his mind too often works erratically, his thoughts bounding from point to point, rather than following a logical progression (that would be *much* too boring). However, if he has to make a snap decision, he will tend to make the right one.

The positions of the planets in the Chart need study, for they can considerably modify the workings of the mind. For example, if Aries is the Sun-sign, Mercury often falls in Pisces: this may even reverse the Arian's advantage in speed of thought. He will still react quickly enough, but also become easily confused and forgetful, and sometimes just plain stupid. Mercury in Pisces will also injure his capacity for making snap decisions.

More sophisticated astrological types may tend to smile at the impulsive, erratic Arian: but his uncluttered, almost primeval impulses are often refreshing to others, and at times they do give their owner certain advantages.



Emotional Relationships The Arian needs to express his sexuality more strongly than most, and in a positive fashion. If Aries is rising, the urgency will be tempered by a very real romantic streak; at the same time his selfishness will be emphasized. If the Sun is rising in Aries, this selfishness will present him with a deep-rooted psychological problem. He will probably have a rather childlike quality about him, especially when things go wrong.



Career Psychologist, psychiatrist, butcher, foundry worker, metal worker, explorer, engineer, engine-driver, fireman, arms-manufacturer, trade-unionist, mechanic, dentist, professional sportsman.

A slow, plodding, dull, safe job is precisely what the Arian does *not* need. He is at his best in competitive work - in a noisy, busy atmosphere, where preferably he is in charge, and can then use his initiative. In any event, he should not be trapped behind a desk. His high level of physical energy must find release if he is not to burst. Challenge is important to him, and may spur him towards a position of power.

The Arian has a pioneering spirit; he may well be an explorer, or like to feel himself one - finding his way over untried ground, trading in new areas, developing fresh lines of scientific research.

In his spare time, the Arian will find that robust sports such as hockey, football, boxing or wrestling, provide an extra channel for his energy. Carving will satisfy his talent for sharp instruments; rally-driving or motor-cycle racing his feelings for speed, danger - and noise.



Parent and Child 'Me first!' cries the Arian. Another version goes: 'My child first!' In his eagerness for a son or daughter to do well at school, the Arian may tend to be over-hard. Nor does his lack of patience help. This tendency to 'push' a child is the Arian parent's worst fault; mothers, especially, should watch for it. All the same, the out-going Arian qualities make a good parent, especially for the more extrovert child. But the child must be allowed to develop at his own rate.

The Arian child is full of energy, and a parent who does not organize his life accordingly will be in for considerable discomfort. Firm discipline is needed, though it must be remembered that the young Arian will smart under it, and may be driven to rebellion and wilfulness if it is too strict. At school, he may lack the patience to study Latin verbs or algebraic equations with proper attention; and rush onto the playing field with something like improper alacrity. His reports may contain allegations of laziness, carelessness, and lack of interest. He will indeed be lazy, careless and uninterested in the subjects he couldn't care less about. But this is true of most children, and once the Arian child has found his particular niche, his energy and application will be so frantic, there will be no holding him.

TAURUS

Feminine Earth Fixed
Ruling planet: Venus
Keywords: Possessively, permanently



Sun-sign period
c 21 April to
21 May



The Myth Taurus was the white bull who courted Europa, bearing her on his back; he was in fact Zeus in disguise, and when the god changed back into his normal form, he placed the bull in the heavens.



Positive Taurean traits Practical, reliable, patient; adept in business, having strong powers of endurance; a firm sense of values, especially in relation to the arts; love of luxury and good food; persistent, solid, determined, strong-willed; affectionate, warm-hearted; trustworthy.



Negative Taurean traits Possessive, lazy, self-indulgent, a potential bore, static in his opinions, lacking flexibility and originality; greedy, stubborn, resentful; obsessed with routines.



Character Just as an oak tree becomes a permanent part of the landscape it is set in, so a Taurean will want to 'belong' to a permanent scene. To this end he will present a solid, steady, reliable front to the world. As the oak tree is rooted in the soil, so also the Taurean is rooted in his opinions, extremely stubborn and hating to be contradicted or crossed.

A feeling of security is important to him: he will demand it in his career, at home, and in his marriage – although he may himself undermine it by a sudden display of furious temper. He is slowly roused but then ferocious and difficult to cope with. Especially in marriage, his temper is most likely to be sparked off by jealousy; this in turn stems from what is probably his worst fault – possessiveness.

He can, however, be very patient, and will probably have plenty of charm, warmth and affection, even though he may tend to be a bit of a bore. He is not to be rushed – and will take no risks: his sense of self-preservation is far too well developed. Those around him may sometimes have to brave his dormant temper and shake him up a little, otherwise his plodding conservatism could drive them to distraction.

Taureans tend to have an excellent business sense – the ability to make money, and to hang on to it. If they are generous in entertaining their friends, it is generally because they enjoy an excuse for a good blow-out for themselves.

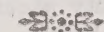
The Taurean will probably be happier living in the country than in town; he usually has flair for and finds psychological contentment in tending his garden. If a dew-laden lawn gives him a chill, this is likely to centre around his throat.



Mind Ask a Taurean what he thinks, and he'll tell you. When he has told you, that will be the end of the matter; you need not expect him to change his opinion. Stubbornness is a main characteristic of the Sign; all too often it demonstrates the depth of the rut in which the Taurean's mind runs.

The mind itself will probably be slow and unoriginal, but constructive as well. No need to expect brilliant ideas from a Taurean; or original ones, or new angles on existing ideas. As usual, planetary positions can aggravate or mitigate the picture: if Mercury and the Sun are both in Taurus, the Taurean's attitude will be even more reactionary, and his ideas even more fixed. If the Sun-sign is Taurus and Mercury is in Gemini, his fixity of opinion may be a little less impervious to argument.

While the Taurean will undoubtedly work best along his own carefully-planned lines, he tends to be unduly upset by a tiny and unimportant deviation from the normal run of events. If he can be persuaded to encourage every tiny sprig of adaptability he can find in his own nature, he will not be quite so upset by changes when they do occur.



Emotional Relationships The passionate film star clutching his mistress and murmuring intensely, 'You're mine!' will undoubtedly be a Taurean, and will probably have Venus in Taurus to add to his passion. His possessiveness extends all too often to his girl-friend or wife, as though she were an acre of garden or a set of flash-knives. Not that he will not be charming and affectionate – indeed, an emotional relation-

ship brings out these Taurean qualities delightfully – but his life does centre around his possessions. If and when he discovers that his wife or girl-friend does not belong utterly and completely to him, he will suffer considerably, and so, no doubt, will she.



Career Farmer, horticulturist, businessman, builder, architect, sculptor, singer, surveyor, jeweller, civil servant, accountant, auctioneer, property dealer, financier, model, art dealer, banker.

The bustle and movement of a city, and office life are not to the Taurean's liking. On the other hand, the security of a conventional office life will attract him, and he will work best when he knows that the end of each month will bring a guaranteed pay-cheque. He will very likely be successful in a career which has to do with finance, and he will look forward to security (with pension) in retirement.

There is another side to the Taurean which might seem a contradiction in terms: he has a distinct artistic leaning. This should obviously, given his temperament, be expressed against a conventional background – the commercial employee-artist rather than the speculative painter. Many successful sculptors and architects are Taureans. Often, too, singers are strongly influenced by this Sign; on a non-professional level, music and its appreciation will satisfy Taureans as a spare-time interest; so, too, will sculpture or women's craftwork. There is a tendency to lethargy, so Taureans will do well to involve themselves in some form of physical exercise during leisure time. Weight-lifting strongly suggests itself.



Parent and Child It is difficult for the Taurean, with his very conservative instincts, to bridge the generation gap with the young; and all too easy for him, with his liking for discipline, to ignore the fact that his children may not be in sympathy with his ideas. He will tend to be strict, and his discipline may be too rigid. He will invest generously in his children's education, wanting to give them the best that money can buy; and he will expect the results to show. In general terms he must also try hard not to be too dogmatic; and to curb possessiveness which, if unbridled, will make life a misery (especially for the Taurean mother) when the children want to leave home.

The Taurean child should be weaned from his possessiveness at an early age by being encouraged to share his toys and games. His inborn instinct for discipline will be at its happiest at school – he will enjoy obeying rules!

He should not be forced: he is a plodder, and his progress may well be slow; but what goes in stays in, and his movement upward will be sure and determined. His natural charm and good looks (Taurus has the reputation of being the most handsome or beautiful of the Signs) will no doubt combine with his natural sensuality to give his first dates an enviable, perhaps dangerous intensity – though his sense of convention will probably save him from premature social disaster.

GEMINI

Masculine Air Mutable
Ruling planet: Mercury
Keywords: Communicatively,

The Myth There seems to be no particular myth associated with Gemini; in Egypt it was known as 'The Two Stars' - and took its name from the stars Castor and Pollux, the brightest of the constellation, also known as Hercules and Apollo, and Triptolemus and Iasion. The Egyptians illustrated Gemini by two kids rather than the two human figures commonly used.



Positive Geminian traits Adaptable, versatile, intellectual, witty and logical, busy, spontaneous, lively, talkative and amusing in conversation; having a flair for writing and for languages; always youthful and up-to-date in outlook and appearance.



Negative Geminian traits Changeable, restless; cunning; inquisitive, inconsistent and two-faced; unable to control nervous energy, lives 'on his nerves'; superficial, a gossip.



Character The Geminian is *always* right and *never* changes his mind - until the next time the argument comes round, when he will take a totally different stand, and deny ever having given vent to his earlier opinions. This is infuriating for his opponents in argument, especially as he has a considerable talent for dialogue - and a tendency to know a very little about a very great number of things, and to marshal this little knowledge so skilfully as to seem well informed. His ability to bluff his way out of tight corners is phenomenal!

There, then, are his worst faults - inconsistency and superficiality. Little wonder, perhaps, that the best popular journalists in newspapers, radio and television are Geminians. For, again, they have an insistent urge to communicate: women will spend hours gossiping on the telephone, the more intellectual Geminian will be constantly writing to the press, lecturing, appearing on TV 'chat' shows, addressing meetings... driven to desperation in his quest for someone to impress with his opinions, the Geminian will collar an old tramp on the street corner, and address *him*. His ideas must be spread about.

The Geminian will always be on the go, and generally speaking will be doing more than one thing at a time. This duality is an important part of his nature, and it would be unwise for anyone to attempt to hinder it; the Geminian needs plenty of variety and change. He can very easily become bored, and his answer is to drop whatever is boring him, and turn to the next job on hand. The phrase 'to live on one's nerves' seems to have been coined for Geminians; and they should be careful not to overstrain their sensitive and highly-strung nervous systems, which can break down under pressure. But they have their bodies on their side, for Gemini is considered the most youthful Sign.

Sun-sign period

c 22 May to

22 June



Mind The Geminian will have many activities, and may even have several occupations during his life; he should try to find one or two major themes which will preoccupy him throughout his whole life-span. The other planets, once more, will help or hinder: if the Sun-sign is Gemini and Mercury is also in that Sign, restlessness will be emphasized. At university, for example, he may drop whatever he is reading in mid-term, and change to something else - not a tendency which endears him to his tutors, and which, although it may have advantages in journalism, will not gladden prospective employers. Mercury in Taurus may steady the restlessness, contributing a more practical outlook, an interesting depth to the character, and an ability to think less haphazardly and with greater coherence.

There is always a danger that if the Geminian mind is not properly stimulated it may apply itself to cunning and fraud.



Emotional Relationships Geminians are not over-emotional; the rest of the Chart should be consulted for more precise information on their emotional level. Their ardour would be warmed, for instance, by Venus in Cancer. But, as may be expected, the Geminian expresses himself well in love, and his love-letters will be worth keeping. His tendency to flirt (strengthened if Venus is in Gemini) may well contribute liveliness to an affair or a marriage; so may his occasional real need for dual relationships - two mistresses or two lovers.



Career Journalist, broadcaster, commentator, teacher, lecturer, writer, linguist, secretary, travel agent, chauffeur, commercial traveller, shop assistant, light manual worker or craftsmen, telephone operator, postman, navigator.

Journalism (newspaper, radio or television) is an obvious career for the Geminian, suiting not only his instinct for language and his urge to communicate, but his need for variety and change. But there are other possible careers: his flair for talk and for travel make him a good commercial traveller, for instance. And he will make an excellent teacher, Gemini's reputation as the most up-to-date of the signs making it easy for him to keep abreast of the latest preoccupations of his pupils.



Obviously, the Geminian should try to steer clear of any job which means working in one environment, or in work that is tedious or monotonous. He should always be adding to his interests, always be studying new subjects (languages will appeal to him).

Physically, Geminians are generally light, wiry and quick-moving. Physical exercise should balance his intellectual side, but the sports he plays should be 'light' - fencing, skiing, archery, table-tennis and tennis. The most unlitrary Geminian may find himself eventually writing something - even if it is just a limerick or a competition entry. But he should remember the disadvantages of speed: a Geminian starting a novel would be wise to plan every chapter in advance.



Parent and Child The Geminian can be a wonderful parent: his own wide interests will foster the waking interests of his child.

He will see to it that his child has plenty of books, and plenty of encouragement to read, from a very early age. His own love of argument and controversy may well stimulate a similar interest in his child.

The Geminian child needs plenty of intellectual stimulation, and will consume books and ideas as his friends eat sweets. The Geminian tendency to skim the surface should be watched, however: he should be encouraged to finish anything he starts (how exciting to start a new game, a new hobby; how dull to complete it). Restlessness or tension should be spotted early, and countered. Discipline is not greeted with rapture by Geminians, and the child will not enjoy the discipline of school, especially if his teachers have the temerity to attempt to stop him talking. Schools famous for their discipline should be avoided. The Geminian child will be reasonable, provided he is understood. Regimentation will stifle him; and while his mind may need taming and disciplining, it will always be lively, always susceptible to an intellectual appeal. A box of pencils and a large notebook will keep a Gemini child quiet for days; well, for hours; well, until he spots something else...



CANCER

Feminine Water Cardinal

Ruling planet: Moon

Keywords: Protectively, sensitively

Sun-sign period

c 23 June to

23 July



The Myth As a crab, Cancer is Babylonian in origin; but in Egypt, the constellation was sometimes represented by two turtles, sometimes known as the Stars of the Water, and sometimes as Allul, an unidentified water-creature. Thus its association with water is ancient, but a more detailed mythological history is lacking.



Positive Cancerian traits Kind, sensitive, sympathetic; a powerful imagination; a strong maternal or paternal instinct, solicitous and protective; cautious, patriotic; tenacious, shrewd, thrifty; emotionally resourceful; an excellent home-maker.



Negative Cancerian traits Over-emotional, hyper-sensitive; touchy, a snappy temper; moody, changeable; a hard exterior hiding a weak character; an inclination to self-pity, unforgiving; unstable and too easily flattered; untidy.



Character There is little doubt that the Cancerian is not the easiest of characters either to understand or to bear with. At his best, kind, affable, helpful, thoughtful and understanding, he can also be – and for no good reason – bad-tempered and moody, short and snappy with anyone who speaks to him, or perhaps refusing to speak at all. Sometimes willing to listen with great sympathy to other people's problems, and to do what he can to help, at other times he will find it extremely difficult to listen patiently to any tale of woe but his own.

The Cancerian often seems hard as nails, and indeed in many ways is hard: he may be completely without magnanimity, for instance, forever harping, perhaps, on a tiny injustice done to him. Again, while he will quickly upset his friends by unthinking comments and hard words, he is himself over-sensitive to criticism. But, under this hard and perhaps unprepossessing exterior, is the soft inner flesh. Sometimes fearful or inhibited, he uses the exterior toughness as a form of protection – very like the crab his sign denotes.

That is the Cancerian's conflict: positive, kind, protective on the one hand – harsh, moody, bad-tempered on the other. It is not surprising that he will tend to swing, pendulum-like, between the two extremes. If the pendulum comes to rest, it will more than likely do so under the influence of a home and a family. He will love his home and cherish his marriage.

The Cancerian has a sentimental streak: he is forever harking back to 'the good old days', and can very easily live in the past. (Mercury in Cancer will underline this trait.) But he also holds on to the present: there is more tenacity in Cancer than in any other Sign, and any project started by a Cancerian will be brought to its conclusion. He will also cling to a personal relationship until the bitter (or sweet) end.



Mind Cancerians are great worriers: they bring worry into the realm of art. They tend to hug their cares to themselves, rejecting the release of talking them over with friends; and the resultant tension all too often upsets their sensitive digestive systems, sometimes to the point of an ulcer.

Their imaginative powers are considerable, and while this can aggravate the tendency to worry, it can act as a release.

The positive elements of the Sign include an excellent memory: not only will Cancerians remember their early childhood, but facts, historical dates – anything. They will also be highly intuitive, and their basic instincts will usually be right. There is a tendency, though, for them not to think for themselves – simply to soak in the opinions of others, later venting them as original. If Mercury is in Gemini, Cancer is the Sun-sign, or Mercury in Aquarius (with Cancer rising), the situation is slightly eased.



Emotional Relationships Sensationalism can often colour the Cancerian's sex life; yet, in the home, the Cancerian woman is easily bogged down by domesticity, not allowing herself to enjoy life even when she has the chance. She will use her domestic activities to provide excuses for refusing invitations, when in fact her own natural reticence and timidity provide the real reasons. The Cancerian husband will be protective; but he, or the Cancerian wife, should be careful that moodiness does not mar their relationship.

Career Businessman, nurse, caterer, hotelier, fisherman, boat-builder, housewife, kindergarten teacher, domestic science specialist, sailor, antique dealer, museum curator, historian.

The Cancerian's natural urge to protect, and his excellent memory, will help him not only to look after his clients' interests, but to remember their names, faces and personal details: this, combined with shrewdness, makes him a formidable businessman. He may express these tendencies by looking after guests in an hotel or guest-house; a natural talent for cooking will not be unusual, and he may well become a top-grade chef. He will not be at his best, however, coping with double bookings or crises in the kitchens, for tension can lead to incessant worry, and then to digestive upsets. A calm working atmosphere is important.

Cancerians make out well as estate agents or market gardeners. The women are excellent nurses, especially working with babies or small children. This instinct will be valuable with their own families.

There are many Cancerian historians (exploiting their feeling for the past and their remarkable memories for dates and events). Museum work is a delight to the culture-conscious Cancerian – happy in the store-room checking the collection. Any career involving the sea is also positive. Hobbies should include some form of collecting; sport may involve bodily contact, as in boxing, although swimming can also attract.



Parent and Child Cancer is traditionally the Sign of motherhood – but that charming convention can rebound on the poor children, for the Cancerian mother is all too likely to refuse to accept the fact that her children are growing up. 'Oh, no – you can't wear that, it makes you look far too old.' And when the child properly rebels, she will say, loftily: 'I didn't do that when I was young. Things were different then...'

The Cancerian parent's tenacious efforts to keep the family unit together can even provoke a split. Cancerians are not necessarily possessive, but they put the family first; any tentative move to step outside the magic circle fills them with horror and foreboding. But the Cancerian's above-average orientation around his family is not to be despised; under the right conditions it can be marvellously rewarding.

The Cancerian child is best governed by an appeal to his home-loving instinct: rather than scolding him harshly, a parent will only have to say, 'It makes me sad to see you doing that', to provoke a stream of repentant tears. The child will be extremely affectionate, and easily hurt. At school he should put his excellent memory to good use, especially in history (probably his favourite subject). Dancing, swimming and some of the rougher sports can be attractive.

The Myth The lion commemorated in this constellation is traditionally the Nemean lion, its pelt proof against iron, bronze and stone, which Hercules killed (losing a finger to its teeth), and which commemorates his bravery.



Positive Leonine traits Magnanimous, generous; creative, enthusiastic, a good organizer; broadminded, expansive, having a sense of showmanship and drama.



Negative Leonine traits Dogmatic; bullying; pompous; snobbish, intolerant, fixed in his opinions; patronizing; power-mad; conceited.



Character There is nothing difficult or complicated about Leo; he is King - the boss, the leader. He knows he is far better at organizing everyone else's life than they are; and if they accept this, all will be well. The sign has obvious faults: the Leo can be interfering and intolerant, pompous and over-dogmatic; so he should make a habit of reassessing his opinion as often as possible, and make good use of the natural, spontaneous, warm-hearted charm which he undoubtedly possesses.

At their best, Leos are affectionate, enthusiastic, cheerful, optimistic people who, in the popular phrase, 'bring sunshine into other people's lives' - indeed in many ways this is their mission in life. It is a valuable quality, and they should not neglect it.

Rather surprisingly, Leos are often sensitive and easily hurt. Not that they will show it: if a Leo is treated unjustly he will show great magnanimity. But if he is really angered, he will put on the full regal act, at once 'mounting the throne' and making quite sure that the impertinent fool who has been stupid enough to consider himself an equal, steps back to his proper, lower, station! Whatever the Leo's background, he will have a kingdom of some sort.

Leos have a pronounced flair for drama: some make scenes in order to be the centre of attention. But their theatrical bent can be externalized in more positive and lively ways - in dressing splendidly, doing things in a big way, organizing outings, and altogether making sure they get the best of everything - as well as providing the best they can for others. Leos are extravagant; money slips through their fingers.

Leos are not only adept at organizing other people, they themselves are hard workers, and can set a good example. This facet of the Leo personality is emphasized when Leo is the Sun-sign.



Mind The opinions a Leo forms in his youth will remain with him until he dies: there is a dangerous tendency to have a closed mind. His early opinions may be, for their time, advanced; but he will cling to them too stubbornly. He will have

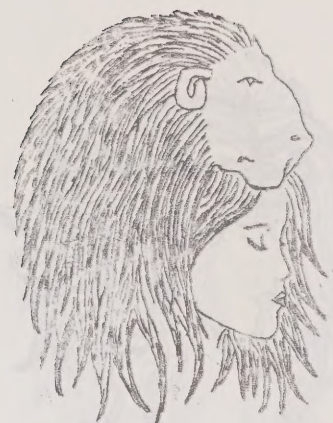
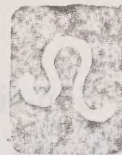


Masculine Fire Fixed
Ruling planet: Sun
Keywords: Creatively, impressive

Sun-sign period

c 24 July to

23 August



breadth of vision, and will at once see the general shape of a scheme or project; but sometimes he will lack an eye for detail (Mercury in Virgo will counteract this). He will have large-scale ideas, sometimes too large; but that is a vital element of his personality. He will not be the worrying kind; often involved by choice in intellectual discussion, he will appear perhaps better informed than he really is in intellectually more advanced company.

Although seldom depressed, he will really crumble when depression does hit him; but he has resilience, and his powers of recuperation are good. His own personal sun will soon shine again. If there is an artistic inclination he will be easily inspired and able to give shape to his ideas. His thought processes are constructive, and while he may not be a quick thinker, he will arrive steadily at firm conclusions, and will not commit himself until he is sure where he stands.



Emotional Relationships The Leo is traditionally said to find marriage difficult, particularly if Leo is rising; so those with a Leo Ascendant should be careful when embarking on a permanent emotional relationship. Leos need to be able to look up to and admire the object of their affections. They are extremely loyal and affectionate, and will express their love and loyalty in a positive fashion. Leo wives should check a tendency to take over the masculine role; both sexes share an appetite for cat-and-mouse games in sexual relationships.



Career Actor, dancer, teacher, youth worker, magazine director, professional sportsman, astrologer, commissionaire, jeweller; any position carrying a promise of publicity and scope for showing off!

Ambitious but not ruthless, a Leo will be an enormously willing slave, provided that he can look up to and respect his master, and provided that his work is congenial - he will suffer enormously in work he finds dull or boring. If his superior is stupid, or small-minded, or a poor organizer, either he or the Leo will have to go! Leos need to express their natural exuberance and enthusiasm for life in their work, and often become deeply involved in it; work and leisure become indivisible, especially if the job is

artistic or creative. The professional life may become so demanding that there is no time for hobbies or recreation. The Leo hates amateurism in all its forms, and will always want to work at the highest level - though his feeling for drama occasionally leads him to take an important role in an amateur dramatic society production. The Leo makes an excellent teacher, probably better with older children than with the very young. It is nevertheless good for him to spend some of his time working with the young, since he often has a happy knack of goading them into action; he will derive a great deal of satisfaction from such work.



Parent and Child A Leo expects as much from his child as he expects from himself, and tends to be unduly disappointed if the child does not measure up to his ideals. A Leo father (by tradition Leo is the sign of the father) can be over-dominating, but Leos do not generally make a burden of parenthood; they will embark on it with great enthusiasm - or not at all. Characteristically, Leos will spend more than they can afford on their children, sometimes for the wrong reasons. They will be enormously proud of them, and if the children themselves are lively and enthusiastic there will be a great deal of family happiness. However, if the child is timid and shy, the parents should be careful not to swamp the child with their own exuberance. On the whole, though, Leo parents should get a great deal of fun out of bringing up their children.

The Leo child needs careful handling. He may well be too full of himself, and although his spirit must never be curbed, he does need guidance. It should be made clear that, splendid though he no doubt is, he is not the only child in the world, nor even the cleverest. Criticism should be carefully expressed, for if his enthusiasm is dampened, he may not be too keen to try again. If he shows himself to be satisfied when he has not made a proper effort, it is better to show him how to improve than just to carp. He must also be taught not to be bossy, since too much freedom in this direction can lead to pomposity in the future.

VIRGO

Feminine Earth Mutable
Ruling planet: Mercury
Keywords: Critically, analytically

Sun-sign period
c 24 August to
23 September



It is perhaps as a result of the 'purity' associated with the sign that Virgoans often take a considerable interest in health and hygiene; they often become vegetarians, or at least take a firm interest in diet.



Mind The Virgoan mind may not be of the highest intellectual order, if only because it lacks breadth of vision; but it is probably more capable than any other of analytical and detailed assimilation of facts. Confronted with a problem, the Virgoan's immediate instinct is to break it down and analyze it, missing no aspect or detail of the situation. To know how, why, when and where is enormously important to his well-being. He will thus be a wonderful researcher, and his shrewdness and logicity work well - though he must be careful not to clutter his work with fussy, irrelevant detail, clogging the main issue.

Virgo is a sign which brings worry. Virgoans often suffer inhibition and restriction, which surfaces in a tendency to be nervous or highly-strung. This can bring with it periods of considerable tension which in turn can affect the health, leading to intestinal upsets, skin eruptions and ulcers.

The Virgoan should try hard to allow the emotional levels of his personality positive freedom of expression. If he can turn his splendidly analytical attributes inward on himself, he may well find that his difficulties originate in an abnormal concern with small, unimportant details. Hypochondria is not uncommon.



Emotional Relationships The association of Virgo with chastity is so obvious it hardly needs restating; but it is a direct association, and can make emotional relationships difficult. It is not always easy for the Virgoan in love to express himself as fully or ardently as he really wants to. But the position of Venus has an important effect here: if Virgo is the Sun-sign and Venus occupies the same sign, the difficulties and inhibitions may be increased; but if Venus is in Libra, there will be a greater freedom of expression and warmth of feeling, making for easier relationships.



Career Secretary, analytical scientist, statistician, gardener, accountant, teacher; any career connected with health and hygiene; inspector, craftsman.

The ideal post for a Virgoan girl is a secretarial one: perhaps, indeed, she will make an ideal secretary - immaculate in a neat navy-blue-and-white dress, with an impossibly tidy desk, ready to perform precisely any task her boss may give her! This is a typical picture of the Virgoan. They like routine, and work which calls on their ability to cope with fine, tricky detail. They are at their best in supporting roles: they do not make very good heads of departments; their organizational abilities are not strong, and they are at their best working in the background, giving stability and practical help to those around them. At root the Virgoan needs security and a firm financial background to his work. Nursing is in many ways another ideal career, and they make excellent analysts of all kinds.

If Virgo is the rising sign, Gemini (the other Mercury sign) is often on the Mid-heaven, and a reference to Geminiian careers is particularly relevant. With additional strength from Mercury, one might find for instance that the Virgoan would make an excellent literary critic, or, leaning still more towards Gemini, the need to communicate may be very powerful, and a career as a newspaper reporter or commentator would be successful.

The Virgoan will enjoy his hobbies, and will be constantly 'doing' or 'making' in his spare time. Gardening, walking or cycling are excellent for him.



Parent and Child The Virgoan love of neatness and tidiness can make him, and especially her, a difficult parent. The Virgoan mother, above all during periods of nervous tension, can be upset out of all proportion when her children come home from school dirty or untidy, and walk over her nice clean floor. But although there is a tendency to be over-critical, the Virgoan can happily encourage his children to spend their free time usefully and practically, and is particularly helpful with detailed work (homework, for example). He must watch the relationship closely, however, because he may be a little distant towards his children, and in extreme cases there may even be a lack of real warmth and affection. This is a tendency that should be carefully watched; where necessary, an effort should be made to develop a more positive attitude.

Teachers love Virgoan children: neat exercise books, always asking the right questions, excellent at tidying up after less careful children... all these qualities will appear once the child settles into the school routine. And he needs that routine, as well as the discipline of school. Not that he will accept discipline unquestioningly (his mind is too inquiring for that); but he will always be extremely reasonable if what is demanded of him is properly explained. Out of school, he should be encouraged to paint, to create, to make things. The girls will be good at dressmaking and boys will soon take an interest in bicycles and construction kits.



The Myth According to Hesiod, Virgo (also called Astraea) was the daughter of Jupiter and Themis, and was goddess of Justice. When the Golden Age ended, and men defied her rule, she returned to the heavens in disgust.



Positive Virgoan traits Discriminating, analytical, meticulous; modest; tidy.



Negative Virgoan traits Fussy, a worrier, hypercritical, over-fastidious; abnormally conventional; finicky.



Character A hard worker, extremely practical and with a great appetite for detail, the Virgoan at his best is both careful and eager to help his fellows. He thrives on constant activity, and has a lot of nervous energy to burn. The trouble is that he finds it very difficult to let up; his ideas on relaxation seem like hard work to others. If Mercury, the ruling planet, is in Libra, there will be a greater ability to relax. Mercury incidentally, also rules Gemini; but Virgoans are not so flighty.

The Virgoan's flair for detail can dominate him; in his quest for perfection in minutiae he can all too easily lose sight of the overall picture. Mercury will again have a powerful bearing on this tendency, and if Virgo is the Sun-sign and Mercury in Leo, there will be a better grasp of the total situation than otherwise.

The driving Virgoan motive is 'to serve' and, one way or another, he will gratify it. Precision and neatness are natural to him, and go with a purity which, as the sign's name suggests, is akin to virginity; in some cases this can build up a psychological barrier which is very difficult to break down, and which can make Virgoans seem particularly stand-offish. If they can work out a proper balance, their charitable, willing characteristics can make them very good friends; in such circumstances their natural reservation can be charming.

The Myth There is no ancient myth involving Libra; but about 2000 BC the constellation was associated with the judgment of the living and dead in Babylonian religions, and Zibanitu, the Scales, weighed the souls. In Egypt, the harvest was weighed when the Moon was full in Libra.



Positive Libran traits Charming, prizing harmony and pleasant living conditions; an easy-going nature; romantic; diplomatic; idealistic; refined.



Negative Libran traits Indecisive, resentful; frivolous, changeable, flirtatious; easily influenced by others; gullible; oscillating between two extremes.



Character The Libran must, in all spheres of his life, express himself; and other people must accept that expression generously and fully. A favourite complaint of the Libran is: 'It's not fair that he should treat me like that *after all I've done for him!*' Of course, 'he' may simply be incapable of responding as fully as the Libran might wish; but the Libran will find this difficult to accept. In any event, a permanent emotional relationship in which the give and take are well balanced is an absolute pre-requisite for the Libran if he is to be happy, and is to develop properly as a person.

Hating quarrels, the Libran has great natural charm and a winning manner; the pretty Libran girl will easily wind her employer round her little finger in order to secure the extra salary she needs to buy that pretty hat or that new dress. In avoiding all forms of quarrels and upsets, the Libran reveals a characteristic tendency to try to be all things to all men. Certainly, too, there is indecision - the worst of Libran faults. 'We must just wait and see what happens,' he cries; and wait he will, putting off a decision, or a mildly unsavoury job, for as long as possible. Librans have a reputation for laziness, but often they are not as soft as they seem; they are usually fairly eager to get what they want, and may appear lazy simply because of their indecision. A Libran may adopt a pose of charming inactivity; but while in one case this may simply be a pause between one activity and the next, in another it may well be very consciously adopted and used. The Libran may be indecisive, but when he does decide that he wants something, he generally gets it, one way or another.

The Libran makes an excellent and thoughtful host: his home will be comfortable and 'pretty'. Guests will be greeted pleasantly, and will find the atmosphere restorative and relaxing.



Mind One of the reasons why the Libran is often indecisive is because he sees far too clearly all sides of every problem, and finds it extremely difficult to decide which side to take. He has a strong sense of justice, and will certainly do his best to see that justice is done (preferably without becoming

LIBRA

Masculine Air Cardinal
Ruling planet: Venus
Keywords: Harmoniously

Sun-sign period
c 24 September to
23 October



personally involved). His instinct is usually right, and will help him to make decisions, by indicating a particular course of action.

He should always try to form his *own* opinions, for he will find himself very easily swayed by the views of others, and may even come to rely on a stronger personality to form his opinions for him. This can subsequently confuse him to the point where he seems incapable of thinking for himself. Mercury in Virgo will help to sharpen his mind; but in Libra, Mercury will make the problem of indecision even worse.

Cheerful, natural optimists, Librans cannot bear loneliness, and their lack of natural resistance to it can deflate their naturally positive spirits. This antipathy gives them a strong desire for partnership, not only in business or private life, but in their intellectual life also. The intellectual kinship they will feel for one person (or, perhaps, a writer or artist) will often be balanced by an equal and opposite antipathy for another - thus maintaining the theme so aptly expressed in the sign's very glyph - a symbol of 'scales' or 'balances'.

Emotional Relationships 'Falling in love with love' will be one problem for the Libran, so anxious to share his life that he may rush into an emotional relationship before he is ready for it. A difficult partner will find it all too easy to take advantage of his pleasantly casual qualities. The placing of Venus is crucial in this respect, and should be very carefully considered.



Career Beautician, dress designer, hairdresser, milliner; luxury trades generally; diplomat, welfare worker, receptionist, valuer, high-wire performer or juggler; but any work which is carried on in pleasant surroundings, and which is creative or appreciative of art.

The Libran is far better working in partnership than alone. If he thinks of going into business (and he will have a good business sense, even if he may be too kind to his rivals) he should always do so with a partner. Who should take the lead in the partnership is another matter; although his Chart should provide a fairly clear answer. In most cases, responsibilities will be fairly evenly shared, while the partner will have to learn to cope with the Libran's over-extravagance!



As to the kind of business most suited to him, it should certainly not involve difficult, dirty or unpleasant working conditions - he just will not be able to cope. He will have creative, artistic ability, and a flair for design, or at least for knowing what 'looks good' with what. Dress designing, dressmaking, hairdressing, millinery, are some obvious possibilities. Fashion, art dealing, or perhaps the recording business or a business concerned with musical instruments would also be suitable. The Libran's natural tact and diplomacy will make him an admirable 'front man', with the ability to make clients feel happy and at ease.



Parent and Child The affectionate Libran will like an affectionate child; and he will no doubt see to it that he is a polite child, too. Easy-going with their children, Librans also like them to look their best, and the Libran mother will spend an above-average amount of time and money in ensuring that they are well dressed; if they tend to be tomboyish or careless, she will be distressed. Libran parents will pretend to be disciplinarians, but their threats are rarely carried out. Over a period of time the crafty child will see this, and take advantage of it.

The Libran child's abundant charm will be used to his own advantage; but he will be extremely pleasant and friendly, with affable ways and manners, and he is not likely to need strong discipline. Chiefly, he should be encouraged to make his own decisions, and not to rely on parents or elder brothers and sisters for support. Encouragement to work steadily should also be given, because he may be all too quick to say that he doesn't feel like working. He should be encouraged to develop his artistic interests, and if possible should be allowed music and dancing lessons, and access to art materials. He will be adaptable enough to settle into most school routines, although he may suffer from the behaviour of rougher, uncouth children. He will not understand them and they, on their side, will probably be jealous of him because he will be instantly liked by the school staff.



SCORPIO

Feminine Water Fixed
Ruling planet: Pluto (traditionally, Mars)
Keywords: Intensively, passionately

Sun-sign period
c 24 October to
22 November



The Myth At Juno's command the Scorpion rose from the earth to attack Orion. The Scorpion also caused the horses of the Sun to bolt when driven for a day by the boy Phaethon; Jove rebuked it with a thunderbolt.



Positive Scorpion traits Powerful feelings and emotions; a sense of purpose; highly imaginative, discerning, subtle; persistent, determined.



Negative Scorpion traits Jealous, resentful, stubborn; obstinate and intractable; secretive and suspicious.



Character Nearly every description of Scorpion emphasizes the depth of his passions, usually in sexual terms. But the Scorpion is passionate in other fields of his life: in his politics, in work, and in play. A peculiar intensity permeates his whole personality, giving him an extremely strong sense of purpose in life, and a determination to do nothing by halves. He must live his life to the full, and will usually over-indulge himself, not only in play, but in work, too.

He can be a very jealous person - again, not only in love. Whoever holds a position to which the Scorpion feels entitled will be disliked, and the Scorpion may even in extremity resort to some kind of victimization or even cruelty. His enormously powerful energy gives him hidden depths which are often unsuspected by less emotional people. When this force is properly channelled, it can give the Scorpion great qualities of endurance; he will battle against severe odds to win - sometimes to the point of trampling on others in the process.

The fact that the eagle was sometimes used as a symbol for this sign underlines not only this harsh tendency - the power to seize on an unsuspecting prey - but the power also to rise above worldly difficulties, to soar away from any earthbound antagonism. This side of his personality will make the

Scorpion revolt from too pedestrian or dull an occupation - something he is able to do almost too easily, for he is quick to adapt to turning-points in his life: when he comes to such a point, he finds it easy to accept that one path has ended, and willingly turns to another. He may even force himself to leave one road and embark on another, working hard to build a career and then, for reasons obscure to others as they are profound in him, destroy what he has built, and start again. A masochistic instinct may contribute to this pattern of behaviour.

Scorpios have great personal magnetism: there is always something exciting, dynamic and fascinating about them, and a certain mystery. Others feel it in the Scorpion's company, as they may feel the tremors of a volcano about to erupt.



Mind Although the Scorpion does not lack reasoning power, has a strong sense of perception, and an analytical mind capable of penetrating to the root of any problem which faces him, he also has a high intuitive level. If he feels that a problem should be handled from a certain direction, he will more than likely be right.

His approach to problems is not easily determined, however, not because of the problems themselves, but because he finds it difficult to understand his own reactions to them. He tends to concentrate on analyzing his reactions rather than the problem itself, and in certain cases can - quite unnecessarily - turn in upon himself feelings of resentment and jealousy. Finally these will burst from him, perhaps in the form of an unwarranted quarrel. The more he tries to control this repressive tendency, the better he will be able to direct his high-powered emotions in a positive fashion.



Emotional Relationships The Scorpion's powerful emotional level finds a positive outlet through sex. This sphere of his life, too, can suffer from unwarranted jealousy which is definitely his worst trait. He loves intensely, passionately, ardently and enduringly; should his sex life be unsatisfactory, he will find it very difficult to fill this gap in his life and personality.

Career: Psychiatrist, psychologist, detective, policeman, butcher, undertaker, pathologist, sewage worker, pharmacist, psychic medium, spiritualist healer, criminal; work in insurance, big business or the armed forces. Anything that taxes his abilities to their fullest extent.

The Scorpion will be happiest when he is convinced that his work is really important; trivialities leave him cold. He will be at his best examining the roots of problems, personal or otherwise: as a psychologist discovers, analyzes and resolves his patients' problems, or as a detective brings light to what is hidden. From another angle, we find the criminal himself, working and planning in secret for his own ends, expressing to the full the Scorpion's clandestine leanings. These may stem from resentment of society at large, and more specifically of people occupying positions of power, privilege or wealth to which he feels himself entitled. He is a bad man to make an enemy of since his resentment is long lasting.

Study will not be difficult for the Scorpion if it involves research rather than speculation. A hard worker, he will gear his intensity happily to an academic career, readily undertaking long periods of study, often in specialist branches of medicine - (surgery or psychiatry, for instance). Scorpios make good soldiers or sailors: they like discipline and respond to it, perhaps with a view to inflicting it themselves in due time. In this they reveal a judicious smattering of the masochism and sadism which is, however faintly, part of their make-up.



Parent and Child As might be expected from his main characteristics, the Scorpion parent tends to be over-demanding in his role, and may be rather too strict. However, remembering his great talent for enjoying life, it is likely that he will enjoy the company of his children, and keep them busy with outings and visits. The Scorpion is generally speaking stubborn and fixed in his opinions; obviously these tendencies will not encourage him to give way easily when his children ask for favours. He must from time to time revise his opinions, especially in contemporary and controversial issues, otherwise he will not easily bridge that particular generation gap.

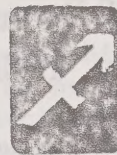
The Scorpion child must be kept busy, and be allowed plenty of outlet for his highly powered emotional energy. Toy forts, books about knights in shining armour, and detective stories will engross the boys; boys and girls alike should swim early in life, and will probably like robust sports. Aggression is likely to be considerable, and it is best if this is brought out in boxing.

The Scorpion's tendency to be secretive should be developed positively in the children. They should, for instance, be allowed to plan surprises for the rest of the family. The slightest tendency to jealousy, especially on the arrival of younger brothers and sisters, can be overcome by informing them thoroughly about such events. They should be encouraged to help their mother when a young baby is on the scene.

SAGITTARIUS

Masculine Fire Mutable
Ruling planet: Jupiter
Keywords: Widely, freely, explorative

Sun-sign period
c 23 November to
22 December



The Myth Sagittarius, with his two faces, animal and human, was the centaur Cheiron who raised Jason, Achilles and Aeneas. Famous as a prophet, doctor and scholar he was the son of Philyra by Cronus, also the father of Zeus, who, surprised in the act, turned himself into a stallion and galloped off, leaving Philyra; she, disgusted at her half-human, half-horse child, turned herself into a linden-tree.



Positive Sagittarian traits Jovial, optimistic; versatile, open-minded, adaptable, having good judgment and a philosophical, freedom-loving outlook; sincere and frank; dependable and scrupulous.



Negative Sagittarian traits Prone to exaggeration, extremism; tactless, restless, careless; blindly optimistic; boisterous; irresponsible, capricious.



Character Careless in his youth, given to driving fast cars with little regard for safety, over-pleased with the sense of excitement it provides him, the Sagittarian at least learns more from his mistakes than other signs. Although his delight in personal freedom never leaves him, he will eventually be able to make full use of formidable intellectual potential, studying serious, perhaps philosophical subjects.

His early years will be somewhat unconventional: he will turn up at a dinner-party in a sweater when everyone else is formally dressed, and he will give the impression of being more interested in sports and outdoor activities than in the intellectual exercise which he really needs.

He will particularly enjoy exploring subjects unknown to him - languages are a Sagittarian field - storing his knowledge and later putting it to good use. He will set his sights on an objective which seems beyond him; as it comes within reach, he will raise his sights still higher and be anxious to start on a new project almost before he has completed the old one.

The Sagittarian always needs to feel free: he cannot stand the slightest feeling of claustrophobia, either physical (the small room with a window facing a blank wall) or emotional (the marriage which, he feels, ties him down). The symbolism which gives the Sagittarian symbol a free-ranging, pointed arrow (aimed straight at his objective) and often the body of a horse, is significant. He will often be devoted to riding, as well as to other sports which involve movement through open country. His exploration of the unknown may well be both physical and intellectual, and it is certainly true of him that 'to travel hopefully is better than to arrive'. His life must always contain some element of challenge.

The Sagittarian is versatile and, like the Gemini, needs to have more than one task on hand at a time. It is not unusual for him to hold down two jobs. As he needs a great deal of intellectual exercise, so he needs an above-average amount of physical exercise. If he feels tired, it usually means he is bored, and a change of occupation will be restorative. Every effort should be made to keep this restlessness under control, as otherwise it will cause considerable unhappiness to the subject and his marriage partner.



Mind The Sagittarian may overlook details, but his overall sense of planning is admirable. Once trained and disciplined, his mind is capable of a great deal. He is at his best dealing with old problems on new lines; each difficulty will be approached from several angles, perhaps unusual ones, and there will inevitably be a great deal of reassessment.

The challenge of a problem is a delight to a Sagittarian, for it caters to his pleasure in exploration, in pushing his mind ever outward - whether he is tracking down a mysterious noise beneath the bonnet of his car, or cracking the code of some ancient language. It is always the challenge - why should A plus B equal C - that grips him, rather than the problem itself, and its solution.

He will not be a worrying type - in fact there is some danger of blind optimism. He can have moralistic tendencies, particularly in old age, when he may too easily forget what it was like to be young.



Emotional Relationships Needing a lively, inventive sex life, the Sagittarian is not interested only in his partner's body; intellectually, she must be well equipped. It is not easy for the Sagittarian to settle into an emotional relationship in which he may have to make allowances for a difference of intellect. He needs, in addition, to feel that he retains some freedom. Jealousy or possessiveness in his partner will quickly shrivel his affection, and if his marriage suffers in this way, other spheres of his life will also suffer - and with this double burden he will more than likely break free.



Career Teacher, professor, lecturer, philosopher; lawyer, barrister; interpreter; veterinary surgeon, horse trainer; travel agent, explorer; sportsman, jockey; priest; publisher, writer, librarian, bookseller.

There must of course be many Sagittarians condemned to a lifetime of grindingly dull work in the office or on the factory floor. But they will not easily accept the situation, even if they have not initially had the opportunity of further education. They will identify with the intellect, and with study; there will be evening classes, perhaps, or advanced reading. Identification will occur in other ways - even on the level of working for a man whose intellect attracts and intrigues them sufficiently.

The Sagittarian's need for challenge is at its height in the sphere of his career, and his ambitions must have positive expression. As a means of escape from dull conditions, he may take up physical exercise, sometimes in the form of extrovert sports.

With their need to feel free Sagittarians often love animals since they make no emotional demands, and will make good careers in veterinary work, or some other job concerning animals: jockeys and dog breeders are often Sagittarians.



Parent and Child Challenge, again, is the key-word: natural optimism bolsters the Sagittarian's faith in his children, and he will find the whole business of parenthood a constant challenge to him. He may expect too much on an intellectual level - so eager is he for his children to progress that he may, for example, weigh them down with books too advanced for their age. But he will have great fun with them, and they will often make just as much progress at home as at school, because of their wonderfully stimulating home background.

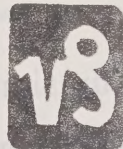
The Sagittarian child may tend to be a little wild, the girls somewhat tomboyish; but he will be good at games and athletics, and naturally intelligent. He will not like restrictive discipline, and will feel extremely inhibited if too tied; parents and teachers may occasionally have to meet to iron out difficulties. In their spare time, Sagittarian children like to ride, to study languages, and - being usually strong and well-built - to play games; sometimes dancing is a big attraction for both boys and girls who enjoy using their energy.

CAPRICORN

Feminine Earth Cardinal
Ruling planet: Saturn
Keywords: Prudently, aspiring



Sun-sign period
c 23 December to
19 January



One of the most delightful Capricornian traits is their sense of humour. Capricornians are basically people of few words; but their dry, somewhat dour comments can be extremely funny. Often their smile is a smile in reverse - a turning down of the corners of the mouth, sometimes accompanied by a deep grunt! Capricornians are reliable, patient, cautious - perhaps to a fault - and can bear considerable hardship if circumstances demand it. They tend to be conventional, and find it particularly difficult to identify with the emotional freedom and permissiveness of their young contemporaries.

Generally speaking, the Capricornian is a self-contained person, and because so much of his energy is geared towards his career interests and prestige, he may tend to miss some of the more human elements of life. His sense of discipline and purpose need not dehumanize him, though this can happen in extreme cases.



Mind The Capricornian's mind is extremely rational and serious. His thought-patterns are constructive, and he has great ability to plan ahead in detail. He will be able to cast aside anything which does not come up to his standards of propriety; and once he has made a move, he will not step back. The phrase 'cool and calculating' is perhaps the most apt way of summing up the Capricornian's mental outlook. He will not be quick to grasp situations, or to study; essentially, he must plod. But once something is fully understood or learned, he will not forget it. The Capricornian is a worrier, and is the most prone to depression of all the signs. If Mercury is in Scorpio, his mind will have greater depth and subtlety; but if it is in Aquarius there will be a more positive outlook, and overall the mind will be more forward-looking.



Emootional Relationships The Capricornian can find human relationships very difficult, above all in intimate circumstances. This may be a fault of communication due to shyness, or because he considers business more important. But, whatever the situation may be he tends to feel alone.

When Capricorn rises, these tendencies are rather lessened, and the Capricornian will make a cherishing and protective husband. But when Capricorn is the Sun-sign the position of Venus should be carefully assessed to guard against any possible bad influences.

Career Civil servant, mathematician, politician, osteopath, scientist, teacher, engineer, farmer, mineralogist, musician, builder, architect, surveyor, dentist; administrator of any kind.

The Capricornian needs security, and a regular pay-cheque, and this should be kept in mind when choosing a career. Any attempt to 'get rich quick' would not be likely to appeal; and should be discouraged if it does. The Capricornian should try to make steady progress; in the long term, the sky is the limit, and by hook or by crook he will reach the top of his profession. He likes fame, and being in the public eye; his career can be so important to him that all else is excluded. At some time during his life, he will more than likely be attracted to the potentially ruthless world of politics. The sign often gives musical ability, particularly so if Taurus and Libra are prominent in the Chart, or if Venus is sensitively placed.

If the Capricornian has no ambition - if he is a 'domestic goat' - he must find a career that is secure and not too demanding. He is a creature of habit, and satisfaction will come through small things, and through a sense of permanence and durability. Reading, listening to records, and rock-climbing are suitable recreations.



Parent and Child The Capricornian's pre-occupation with his child's success can get out of hand. He (or the Capricornian mother) may tend to dominate his children. His delightful sense of humour should certainly be brought into play, and he should always be ready with praise, encouraging his children to aspire, as he does, to better things. He should make a conscious effort to bring fun into his children's lives. The tendency to play the 'heavy father' can be in evidence; although sometimes the father is pre-occupied with business interests, and may quite genuinely be too busy. Too much responsibility may then fall on the mother. The Capricornian mother must be careful not to go back to work while her children are too young, even if she does find domesticity tedious - this may cause a lack of affection.

Young Capricornians should be encouraged to take an interest in music, natural history, archaeology, rock- and mountain-climbing. They can be good athletes, but may not find it easy to integrate with a team. They are voracious readers and, in order to ensure exercise, individual initiative in sport should be encouraged.

The slow Capricornian child may be spurred into action by some such comment as 'could do better if he tried'; and if he does try, and the next school report says 'steady improvement', it is even possible that he may tear himself free of his chain and transform himself from domestic to mountain goat. Unfortunately, this is rare.

The Myth The mythological associations of Capricorn are uncertain, though there is a faint reference to Pan - whose mother came from him because of his ugliness, but whose success in seducing nymphs was notable. An ancient Babylonian god was Ea, known as the 'antelope of the subterranean ocean' - the fish-tailed goat also called *asarikku*, the fish-ram.



Positive Capricornian traits Reliable, determined, ambitious; careful, prudent; sense of humour; a sense of discipline; patient, persevering.



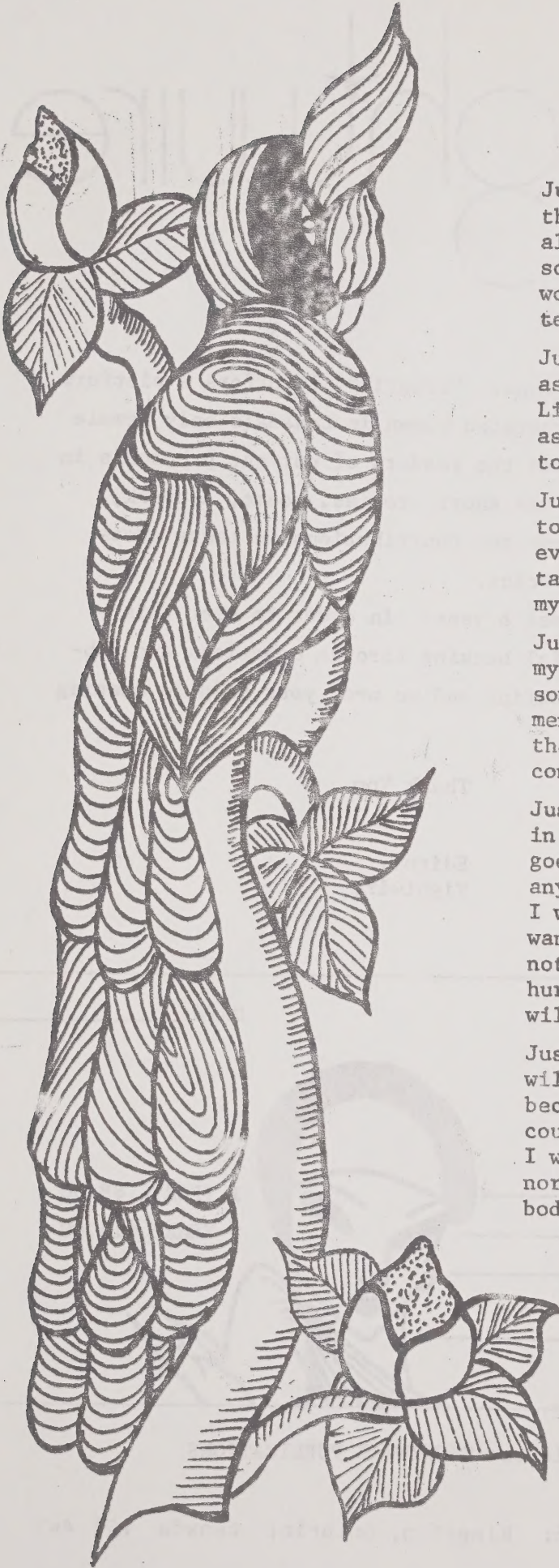
Negative Capricornian traits Rigid outlook; over-exacting; pessimistic; conventional; miserly, mean; a 'wet blanket'.



Character One astrological writer summed up the two types of Capricornian by describing the two types of goat: the giddy mountain goat, stepping neatly from crag to crag, always moving on to nibble greener grass further up the mountain; and the domestic goat restricted to the small patch of grass within the circle allowed him by a post and chain.

Generally speaking, Capricornians are ambitious, always looking out for promotion or a raise in salary. They do not have to keep up with the people next door; they are the people next door, or are already ahead of them. They are splendid businessmen, and the positive Capricornian will surely make the grade if he sets out to do so. Capricornian wives will do their share of pushing their husbands (and themselves) up the social ladder.

So much for the mountain goat. The domestic goat, stuck in the valley, is sad indeed. He too has ambition; but try as he may - and he will try - the burdens of competition will simply be too much for him. If he is wise, he will find his own quiet, safe level in a simple job he can do quietly, unruffled, in his own way, in his own time.



JUST FOR TODAY

Just for today I will try to live through this day only, and not tackle all my problems at once. I can do something for twelve hours that would appall me if I felt that I had to keep it up for a lifetime.

Just for today I will be happy. This assumes to be true what Abraham Lincoln said, that "Most folks are as happy as they make up their minds to be".

Just for today I will adjust myself to what is, and not try to adjust everything to my own desires. I will take my "luck" as it comes, and fit myself into it.

Just for today I will try to strengthen my mind. I will Study. I will learn something useful. I will not be a mental loafer. I will read something that requires effort, thought and concentration.

Just for today I will exercise my soul in three ways: I will do somebody a good turn, and not get found out; if anybody knows of it, it will not count. I will do at least two things I don't want to do--just for exercise. I will not show anyone that my feelings are hurt; they may be hurt, but today I will not show it.

Just for today I will be agreeable. I will look as well as I can, dress becomingly, keep my voice low, be courteous, criticize not one bit. I won't find fault with anything, nor nor try to improve or regulate anybody but myself.



tightwire

The Tightwire serves many functions. Primarily, it offers a platform for artistic expression to the incarcerated women in Canada's only female federal penitentiary. It also informs the readers of current proposals in law reform. Included in the format are short stories, poems, artwork, quotes, puzzles and jokes. We welcome any contributions in these areas. Especially those with a women's viewpoint.

Tightwire is published four times a year. In order to meet this objective, we are asking for financial backing through donations and subscriptions. Tightwire is self-supporting and we need your help in meeting our publishing requirements.

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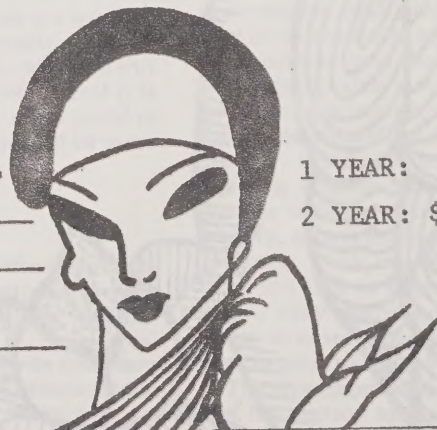
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